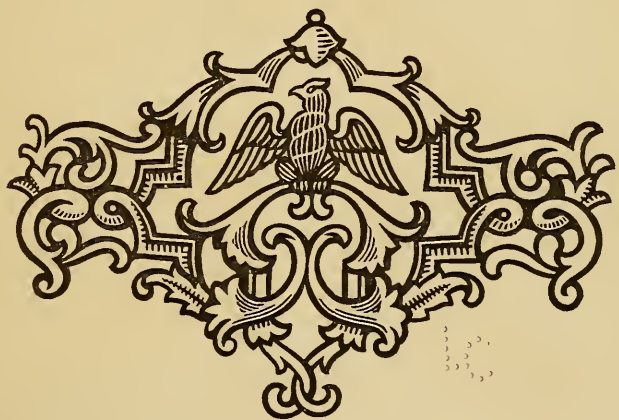
The Minute Book of the Committee of Safety

THE MINUTE BOOK *of the* COMMITTEE OF SAFETY

Of TRYON COUNTY, *the Old New York Frontier*
Now *Printed Verbatim* for the Firſt Time

With an *Introduction* by J. HOWARD HANSON
and *Notes* by SAMUEL LUDLOW FREY



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TO

STEPHEN SANFORD

Who has done so much to make the fair valley of the Mohawk as famed for its industrial activity as for its wondrous natural beauty, and whose generosity has preserved for future generations the relics of the unwritten history of the valley's past.

ILLUSTRATIONS

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COURT HOUSE AT JOHNSTOWN . . . . . *Frontispiece*

FACSIMILE OF THE FIRST PAGE OF THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES 8

GUY PARK. AMSTERDAM. HOME OF COLONEL GUY JOHNSON 16

COLONEL JACOB KLOCK'S HOUSE. ST. JOHNSVILLE 28

MAP OF TRYON COUNTY 36

HOUSE OF GOSE VAN ALSTINE. CANAJOHARIE 44

MOUNT JOHNSON, OR FORT JOHNSON. BUILT BY SIR WILLIAM JOHNSON 52

THE TURNPIKE. PALATINE CHURCH IN THE DISTANCE . 62

A CLIFF ON THE CANAJOHARIE CREEK 70

JAIL AT JOHNSTOWN 78

THE MOHAWK AT TRIKES HILL 86

QUEEN ANNE'S CHAPEL PARSONAGE (1712) AT FORT HUNTER 94

JOHNSON HALL. JOHNSTOWN. BUILT IN 1763 102

HOUSE OF GENERAL HERKIMER. DANUBE 110

THE MOHAWK AT LITTLE FALLS 118

HOUSE OF COLONEL PETER WAGGONER. PALATINE . . . 128

HOUSE BUILT BY HENRY FREY. 1739. PALATINE . . . 136

Introduction

This is the Land of the Pioneer,
Where a life-long feud was healed;
Where the League of the Men whose Coats were Red
With the Men of the Woods whose Skins were Red
Was riveted, forged, and sealed:
Now, by the blood of our Splendid Dead,
God save our sons from the League of Red!

R. W. CHAMBERS.

COMMITTEES of Safety or Committees of Correspondence, as they were at first styled, were the children of the genius of Samuel Adams, "the helmsman of the Revolution."

As early as 1764, Adams recognized that if there was to be, on the part of the colonists, any successful opposition to the oppressive measures of the British ministry, there must be a thorough understanding between all of those, throughout the various colonies, that were in sympathy with the patriot cause.

On October 5th, 1772, he wrote under the pseudonym of "Valerius Poplicola" in the "Boston Gazette,"

"Let Associations and Combinations be everywhere set up to consult and recover our just Rights."

As a result of Adams' persistent efforts, there were organized throughout Massachusetts, and eventually throughout most of the colonies, associations of men, pledged by vows of secrecy or of honor to support and to defend what they deemed to be the liberties of English subjects. These associations, at first called Committees of Correspondence and afterwards Committees of Safety, were, in the language of Fiske, the "beginnings of the American Union."

The transactions and proceedings of these committees, in so far as they have been preserved, are of greater or less interest to the student of to-day in proportion as they were surrounded by the element of danger. If they record the acts of those living in a community in which the patriot cause was overwhelmingly predominant, and there was no fear or danger

of a British invasion or of an armed resistance on the part of the loyalists, then they lack those heroic qualities which fire our feelings and imaginations. If, however, the doings of those old patriots were "set in Danger's Van" then, aside from their purely historical interest, they greatly move and inspire all in whom the love of country is not dead.

If the shedding of blood, the sacrifice of property, the sundering of family ties, the breaking of life-long friendships, if all or any of these are any measure of one's devotion to a cause, then surely the men of the old New York frontier, who espoused the patriot side in the Revolutionary Contest, attained as high, if not a higher level of heroic achievement than those in any other of the thirteen colonies.

Tryon County, whether, as contended by some, its limits included all the territory within the present boundaries of the State of New York west of the westerly line of Albany County, or was more restricted in its area as asserted by others, was the New York frontier and the scene of the most memorable, savage, and sanguinary border wars of the Revolution.

The principal settlements of the county followed the present and the immemorial lines of travel, the Old Iroquois trail, to be succeeded in turn by the batteaux, the stage-coach, the Erie Canal, and in these later days, the great systems controlled by the New York Central & Hudson River Railroad Company. All of these lines of communication from Schenectady west followed the valley of the Mohawk. The traveller from Albany westward, through the Mohawk Valley, looks out upon not only one of the fairest and most peaceful of landscapes in the western world, but one as rich in historic memories, in heroic traditions, and in weird legend as it is in natural beauty.

To appreciate, in any degree, the dangers which surrounded the patriots of Tryon County, one must have some knowledge of the conditions there preceding the Revolutionary period. The county was the home of one of the most commanding figures in American colonial history, Sir William Johnson, who had been for years His Britannic Majesty's Superintendent of Indian Affairs in North America. It was Sir William Johnson's tact,

ability, and diplomacy, that had made the powerful league of the Six Nations the firm and trusty ally of the English King. He had by an Indian marriage allied himself to the most capable and powerful Indian chieftain of his day. Life in the valley presented a curious anomaly in Colonial civilization. Side by side with the white population, consisting principally of those of Holland Dutch, Palatine German, and Scotch-Irish descent, were Mohawks and Oneidas of the Iroquois confederacy, while many times the council fires of the Long House were lighted at Fort Johnson and Johnson Hall. History and tradition both tell us that for years prior to the Revolution the valley was rich and populous, with excellent homes and farm buildings and large areas of land under a high state of cultivation. The shiretown of the county was Johnstown, where Sir William lived in baronial state. Here also were the jail and court-house, still standing, and still used for their respective purposes.

Sir William had died in 1774 and his manor house came into the possession of his son Sir John. The office of Superintendent of Indian

Affairs passed to his nephew Col. Guy Johnson, whose home, Guy Park, remains in an excellent state of preservation at Amsterdam. The dread and fear with which the elder Johnson had looked upon the coming crisis between the colonies and the crown were evidently not shared by his son and nephew. In the war of pen and petition which preceded the actual battle at arms of the Revolution, the lines between the patriots and loyalists in Tryon County were early and sharply defined. In August, 1774, a meeting was held in the Palatine district of the county, at which, by a set of resolutions couched in as dignified language as that of any paper of the time, the patriots of that district pledged their support to their brethren of Boston and their firm allegiance to the cause of the colonies. It is with the proceedings of this meeting that the minutes of the committee of Tryon County commence. From that time on until 1783, or two years after the surrender of Cornwallis, the county knew no peace. There was first the struggle between the Johnson faction and the committee for the Indian alliance on the one side

and for Indian neutrality on the other. Then there came, in quick succession for eight long years, the raids of the Johnsons and Butlers with their Indian allies, the horrors of the firebrand and the scalping-knife, the strife of border warfare, and the awful carnage of Oriskany. Well might General Clinton have expressed the fear, in 1779, that Schenectady would become the frontier of the State! And what a desolation at the end! The Johnson family and their adherents were forever driven from the State; their Indian allies were dispersed or destroyed, the League of the Iroquois that had shattered the hopes of French colonization in North America was broken. Of the inhabitants of the county two-thirds had been killed, and of the remainder three hundred and eighty were widows and two thousand fatherless children. Besides the loss of life, the loss of property in the Johnson and Indian raids had been appalling. A conservative historian in estimating this property loss states that seven hundred buildings had been burned and one hundred and fifty thousand bushels of wheat destroyed, while twelve

thousand farms lay uncultivated. Surely "if blood be the price" of liberty the patriots of Tryon County paid in full measure and running over. The pages that follow are a verbatim reprint, now published in full for the first time, of the transactions of the Committee of Safety of Tryon County, or of so much of them as are in existence. Read with a knowledge of the political and social conditions which surrounded the actors, and of the tragic events which followed, they are of intense, dramatic interest. The ample and scholarly notes of Mr. S. L. Frey add very much to an intelligent understanding of the minutes, and are in themselves a valuable contribution to the history of the period. The MS. itself has survived all of these years because of the watchful care of Mr. Frey and of his forbears, the descendants of Major John Frey, the last known chairman of the committee.

It is a matter of much regret that the last pages of the MS. are apparently forever lost, but after all the most interesting portion remains, the portion which deals with the preparations, civil and military, for the conflict in

the county. The record is not history so much as it is the bare recital of facts from which history and romance are made. It is hoped that the publication of these minutes will not only preserve something of value for the historian and antiquarian of the future, but that the reading of them will inspire a greater appreciation of the devotion to duty and of the high endeavor of the fathers, which made our Independence possible.

To the inhabitants of the Valley, and of historic Tryon County may the minutes recall that

"Here where the ghost-flower, blowing,
Grows from the bones below,
Patters the hare, unknowing,
Passes the cawing crow:
Shadows of hawk and swallow,
Shadows of wind-stirred wood,
Dapple each hill and hollow,
Here where our dead men stood;
Wild bees hum through the forest vines
Where the bullets of England hummed,
And the partridge drums in the ringing pines
Where the drummers of England drummed."

J. HOWARD HANSON

TO

THE MEMORY OF THE PATRIOTS

WHO LABORED AND FOUGHT FOR THE

CAUSE OF AMERICAN LIBERTY

IN TRYON COUNTY

The Minute Book of the Committee of Safety

Minutes of the Committee of Safety

County of Tryon[1] } **Whereas** the Brittish Parliament has lately passed an Act for raising a Revenue in America without the Consent of our Representative to abridging the Liberties and privileges of the American Colonies and therefore blocking up the Port of Boston; the Freeholders and Inhabitants of Palatine Dist.,[2] in the County of Tryon aforesaid, looking with Concern and heartfull Sorrow on these Allarming and calamitous Conditions, Do meet this 27th Day of August 1774. on that purpose at the house of Adam Loucks[3] Esq[r] at Stonearabia,[4] and Concluded the Resolves following: Vizt. *1st Meeting*

I.) That King George the Third is Lawful and Rightful Lord and Sovereign of Great Britain and the Dominions thereto belonging, and that as Part of his Dominions We hereby testify, that We will bear true Faith and Allegiance unto him, and that we Will with our Lives and Fortunes support and maintain him upon the Throne of His Ancestors and the

just Dependence of these his Colonies upon the Crown of Great Britain —

II.) That we think and consider it as our greatest Happiness to be governed by the Laws of Great Britain, and that with Chearfulness We will always pay Submission thereunto, as far as we consistently can, with the Security of the Constitutional Rights and Liberties of English Subjects, which are so sacred, that we cannot permit the same to be violated. —

III.) That We think it is our undeniable Privilege to be taxed only with our own Consent given by ourselves (or by our Representative). That Taxes otherwise laid and exacted are unjust and unconstitutional. That the Late Acts of Parliament declarative of their Right of laying internal Taxes on the American Colonies are obvious Incroachment in the Rights and Liberties of the British Subjects in America —

IV.) That the Act for blocking up the Port of Boston[5] is oppressive and arbitrary, injurious in its principles and particularly oppressive to the Inhabitants of Boston, who we consider as Brethren suffering in the Common Cause.

V.) That We will unite and join with the different Districts of this County, in giving

whatever Relief it is in our power to the poor distressed Inhabitants of Boston, and that we will join and unite with our Brethren of the Rest of this Colony in anything tending to support and defend our Rights and Liberties —

VI.) That we think the sending of Delegates from the different Colonies to a general Continental Congress is a Salutary Measure, and absolutely necessary at this alarming Crisis, and that we intirely approve of the five Gentlemen chosen Delegates [6] for this Colony by our Brethren of N. York, hereby adopting and choosing the same persons to represent this Colony at the Congress —

VII.) That We hereby engage faithfully to abide by and adhere to such Restrictions and Regulations, as shall be made and agreed upon by the said Congress —

VIII.) That we conceive it necessary, that there be appointed a standing Committee of this County, to correspond with the Committees of N. York and Albany, and we do hereby appoint

Christopher P. Yates [7] —
Isaac Paris [8]
John Frey & [9]
Andrew Finck jun.[10]

who together with persons to be appointed by the other District of this County shall compose a Committee of Correspondence to convey the sentiments of this County in a Sett of Resolves to New York —

IX.) It is voted by this meeting, that Copies of the proceedings of this Day Certified by the chairman be transmitted to the Supervisors of the different Districts of this County. — And we recommend it to the Inhabitants of the said Districts to appoint persons, to compose also a Committee of Correspondence —

II MEETING

of Palatine District on Thursday the (early May) House of Adam Loucks Esq^{r} —

The Resolutions of the Meeting of the 27th Day of August were read and unanimously approved

And an Association to the like purpose (was formed) as followeth: Viz^{t} —

Whereas the Grand Jury of this County, and a Number of the Magistrates have signed

a Declaration, declaring their Disapprobation of the just Opposition made by the Colonies of the oppressive and arbitrary Acts of the British Parliament, the purport of which is evidently to entail Slavery on America. And as the said Declaration may in some measures be looked upon as the Sense of the County in General, if the same be passed over in Silence: — We the Subscribers Freeholders and Inhabitants of the Said County, inspired with a sincere Love for our Country and deeply interested in the Common Cause, Do Solemnly Declare our fixed Attachment to and entire Approbation of the proceedings of the Grand Continental Congress held at Philadelphia last Fall, and that We will strictly adhere and abide by the same. We do also solemnly declare and express our Confidence in the Wisdom and Integrity of the present Continental Congress, and that We will support the same to the utmost of our power, and that we will Religiously and inviolably observe the Regulations and proceedings of that August Body —

The following persons were appointed to be a standing Committee of this District, to correspond with the Committees of this and other Counties: Viz.ᵗ

Christopher P. Yates	Daniel M[c]Dougall [13]
John Frey	Jacob Clock [14]
Isaac Paris	George Eker jun[r] [15]
Andrew Fink j[r]	Harmanus V. Slyck [16]
Andrew Reber [11]	Christopher W. Fox [17]
Peter Waggoner [12]	Anthony V. Fechten [18]

Which concluded the Business of this meeting —

III. MEETING

of the Palatine Committee May 19[th] 1775

In the presence of the follow. Members:

Mefs[rs] Yates	Mefs[r] Eker
Frey	Van Slyck
Paris	Fox
Finck	Van Veghten
Reber	

Christopher P. Yates was appointed chairman. —

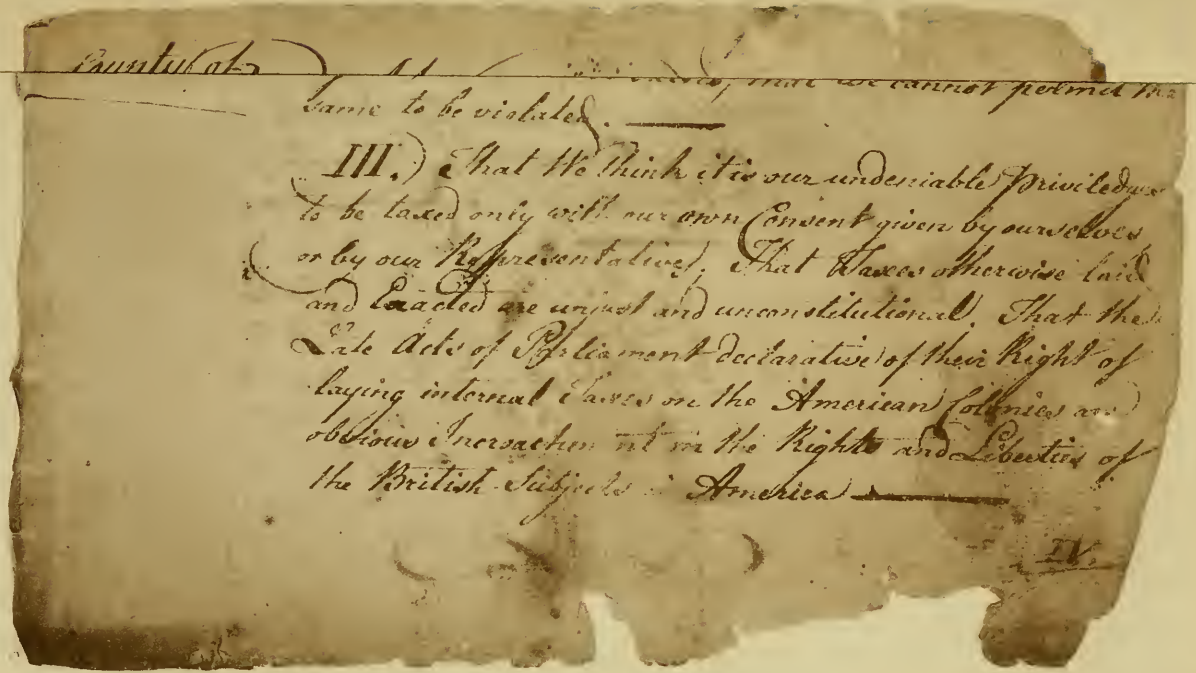
The Committee taking into their Consideration, the alarming State of the Province in general, and this County in particular, thought fit to write the following Letter to the Committee of Albany, Viz[t] —

We are so peculiarly circumstanced in this County relating to the present Struggle for

American Liberty that we cannot longer defer laying the Situation of this County before You — The District, we represent, has been foremost in avowing its attachment to Liberty and approving the Mode of Opposition adopted in America, and are now Signing an Association Similar to what has been signed in other Counties in this Province. And we hope in a few Days to have the pleasure to transmit it down for the press. The County being extensive, it takes a considerable time, before the people who are favorable to the Cause can be got to sign, for we have caused Copies of the Association to be dispersed in divers parts of the County.

This County has for a series of Years been Ruled by one family,[19] the different Branches of which are still strenious in dissuading people from coming into Congressional Measures, and even have last Week at a numerous Meeting of the Mohawk District[20] appeared with all their Dependants armed to oppose the people from considering of their Grievances, their Number being so large and the people unarmed, struck Terror into most of them, and they dispersed. — We are informed, that Johnson Hall[21] is fortified by placing a parcel of Swivels round

(the same;) and that Col. Johnson has had part of his (Regiment of Militia) under arms yesterday, no doubt with a design to prevent the friends of Liberty from publishing their attachment to the Cause to the World — Besides which we are told, that about 150 Highlanders (Roman Catholicks) in and about Johnstown, are armed and ready to march upon the like Occasion. — We have been informed that Co! Johnson has stopped two New England-Men and searched them, being we suppose, suspicious, that they came to solicit aid from us or the Indians, who we dread most — there being a current Report through the County, that they are to be made use of in keeping us in Awe. — We recommend it strongly and Seriously to You, to take in your Consideration whether any powder and amunition ought to be permitted to be sent up this Way, unless it is done under the Inspection of the Committee, and consigned to the Committee here and for such particular Shopkeepers, as we in our next shall acquaint you of. — We are determined to suffer none in our District to sell any, but such as we approve of and sign the association. — When anything particular comes to our knowledge relating to



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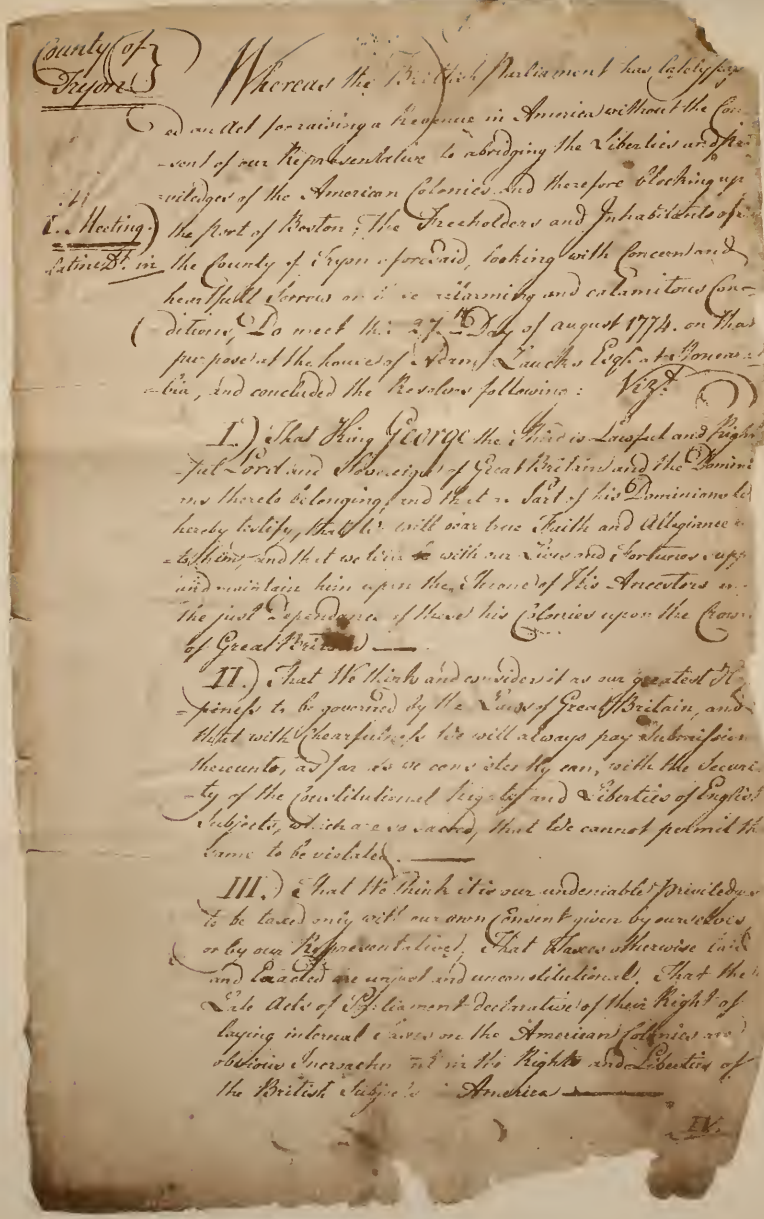

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the Indians, (whom we shall watch) or any other thing interesting, we shall take the earliest opportunity in communicating the same to You. And as we are a young County and remote from the Metropolis, We beg, you will give us all the Intellegince in your power —

We shall not be able to send down any Deputies to the Provincial Congress, as we cannot obtain the Sense of the County soon enough, to make it worth our while to send any, but be assured we are not the less attached to American Liberty, for we are determined, altho' few in Number, to let the World see, who are, and who are not Such and to wipe off the indelible Disgrace brought on us by the Declaration signed by our Grand-Jury and some of our Magistrates, who in general are considered by the Majority of the County as Enemies to their Country. — In a word Gentl.ⁿ, it is our fixed Resolution to support and carry into Execution everything Recommended by the Continental and provincial Congress, and to be free, or die.

We shall always be glad of your advice and assistance in Matters of Importance. —

&c

IV. MEETING

of Palatine Committee — on Sunday [24] the 21st May 1775 at the house of Philip W. Fox [25]

Members present.

Messrs.	Yates	Messrs.	Mc Dougall
	Paris		Finck
	Reber		Waggoner
	Van Slyck		Clock
	Fox		———

A Letter from the Mohawk Indians [26] to the Oniedas, translated into the English Language was laid before the Committee.

vide Letter page

Also a Letter from Guy Johnson Esqr. to the Magistrates of this County was read —

vide Epist. p.

Upon taking such Letters and the alarming and defenceless State of this County into their mature and Serious Deliberation, the Members came to the following Resolution unanimously, Vizt.: —

1.) That it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Indians, who signed the Letter, never would have presumed to write or send the same, if they had not been countenanced.

2.) That as we have unanimously adopted the proceedings of the Grand Continental Congress, and mean virtuously to support the same, so we feel and commiserate the sufferings of our Brethren in the Massachusetts Bay and other the Colonies in America, and that we mean never to submit to any arbitrary and oppressive Acts of any power under Heaven, or to any illegal and unwarrantable action of any Man or sett of Men. —

3.) That as the whole Continent has approved of the Actions and proceedings of the Massachusetts Bay and other of the Provinces of N. England, We do adopt and approve of the same. Wherefore we must and do consider, that any Fortification or armed Force raised to be made Use of against them is evidently designed to overawe us, and make us submit. —

4.) That Co! Johnson's Conduct in Raising Fortifications round his house, keeping a Number of Indians and other armed men constantly about him, and stopping and searching Travellers upon the King's Highway, and stopping our Communication with Albany is very alarming to this County, and highly arbitrary illegal, oppressive and unwarrantable,

and confirms us in our Fears, that his Design is to keep us in awe, and to oblige us to Submit to a State of Slavery. —

5.) That as we abhor a State of Slavery, We do join and unite together under all the ties of Religion, Honor, Justice and Love for our Country, never to become Slaves, and to defend our Freedom with our Lives and Fortunes. —

It is ordered by this Meeting, that the Chairman writes a Letter to the Freeholders and Inhabitants of the Germanflatts, and King'sland Districts, to acquaint them of our Situation, and to Request them to unite with us in our Defence; and that the same be Sent by Express —

It is ordered, that a Letter be sent by Express to the Committee of Albany —

vide Epist. pag.

V.th MEETING —

of the United Committees of Palatine, Conajohary, King'sland[29] and Germanflatts[30] Districts on the 24th of May 1775 — at the House of William Seeber[31] in Conajohary District.[28]

COMMITTEE OF SAFETY

Members present.

Palatine:
Christ. P. Yates
John Frey
Isaac Paris
Andrew Fink jr
Andrew Reber
Peter Waggoner
Daniel McDougall
Jacob Clock
George Eker junr
Harman V. Slyck
Anthony V. Fechten

Conajohary:
Messrs Nicholas Herckimer[32]
Ebenezer Cox[33]
David Cox[34]
William Seeber
John Moore[35]
John Pickert[36]

G. Flatts:
Edward Wall[37]
William Petry[38]
Jacob Weaver[39]
Duncan McDougall[40]
Marcus Petry[41]
John Petry[42]

King'sland:
George Wents[43]
John Franck[44]
Frederick Fox[45]
Augustinus Hess[46]
Michael Ittig[47]
Frederic Ahrendorf[48]
George Herckimer[49]

Mr. Christopher P. Yates was appointed to be Chairman of this Body —

Mr. chairman read the Resolutions, proceedings and Letters of Palatine Committee, which were unanimously approved of this Body, as the best Steps, they could take upon the very alarming News spread through the County.

Mr Wall laid before the Body the proceedings of the Germanflatts and King'sland Districts unitedly, together with speech delivered to the Oneida Indians[50] with their Reply.

Mr Chairman put the Question, and the same were unanimously approved of —

vide Speech to the Indn page

Resolved unanimously, that four Members of this Body be sent down to commune with the Committees of Albany and Schenectady upon the present Situation of America in general and this County in particular to obtain all the -ing Intelligence possible, and to buy such a Quantity of powder and flints and Lead, as they judge necessary, for the (payment) of which this Body will indemnify them, which powder is to be sold under the Inspection of this Body and by such persons as this Committee shall appoint out of their Brethren.

Ordered therefore, that Daniel McDougall for Palatine, David Cox for Conajohary, Edward Wall and Duncan McDougall for the Districts of the Germanflatts and King'sland united, be sent down accordingly —

It is resolved unanimously, that whereas the persons of some of the Members of this Committee have been threatened with Imprisonment on account of their being concerned in our just opposition, in which case we do associate and unite together, we will to the utmost of our power do our Endeavors by Force or otherwise to rescue them from Imprisonment, unless such person or persons are confined by

legal process issued upon a legal ground and executed in a legal manner —

It is ordered by the Body that nothing of what we have done or said at this Meeting or former Meetings of particular Committees of this County be divulged to any person whatever unless it is to some one or more of this Committee, and until this Committee shall make an order to the Contrary.

vide Committee's Oath page

It is also Ordered that the next Meeting of this Committee shall be at the house of Werner Tygert [51] at the Fall Hill, and so reciprocally at the House of William Seeber and Werner Tygert —

VI[TH] MEETING

of the Palatine Committee on Monday the 29[th] May 1775 at the House of William Seeber at Conajohary —

Members present:

Mess[rs] Yates	Mess[rs] Van Slyck
Paris	Clock
Frey	Fox
Van Veghten	Eker
Waggoner	Finck jun[r]

Visitors from the Committee of the Mohawk District.

Messrs. Adam Fonda [52]
Volkert Vedder [53]
Sampson Simmons [54]
John Marlatt [55]
Abraham Yates [56]
Frederick Visgor [57]

who shewed sufficiently credentials of their being appointed Committee of the Mohawk District.

Visitor from the Committee of Conajohary

Mr. William Seeber

Resolved [58] unanimously by this Committee, that it be Recommended to the Inhabitants of this District, and it is expected that no person or persons, or any other for or in their Behalf do or shall from this Day have any Dealings or other Connections in the Way of trade with any person or persons whatsoever, who have not signed the Association entered into by this District. Also Resolved, that every owner of Slaves and Servants do not permit them to absent themselves from home either by Night or Day, unless they be upon their Masters or Mistresses Lawful Business and with a Certificate specifying such Business; And Such persons, as do infringe or break through these two Resolutions will be dealt with as Enemies to the District and to their Country: And it is

GUY PARK. AMSTERDAM. HOME OF COLONEL GUY JOHNSON

Requested of every Friend to this Country to take up and secure every Servant or Slave not having such Certificate —

Ordered therefore that these Resolutions be published by the Clerk of the Committee at all the publick places in the District.

This Committee taking into their Serious and Mature consideration the distressfull and calamitous Situation of the Inhabitants of the Mohawk District, and the Usage of particulars in said District, do sympathise with their Brethren in that District — Do Resolve to recommend to the next Meeting of the General Committee of the County to take Such Steps therein and Issue Such Orders to prevent anything of the kind for the future, as to them shall seem meet —

VII. MEETING

of the County Committee of all the Districts on Fryday the 2d of June 1775. at the House of Werner Tygert of Conajohary District —

Members present from

Palatine	*Kingsland & Germn. flatts*
Messrs Isaac Paris	Messrs Edward Wall
Christopher P. Yates	William Petry

John Frey
Andrew Finck jr.
Andrew Reber
Peter Waggoner
Daniel McDougal
Jacob Clock
George Eker junr.
Harms. Van Slyck
Christopher W. Fox
Anthony V. Fechten

Conajohary

Nicholas Herckimer
Ebenezer Cox
William Seeber
John Moore
Samuel Campbell [59]
Samuel Clyde [60]
Thomas Henry [61]
John Pickert [62]
John Petry
Marcus Petry
Augustinus Hess
Frederick Ahrendorf
George Wents
Michel Ittig
Frederick Fox
George Herkimer
Duncan McDougall
Frederick Hollmer [68]
John Franck

Mohawk

John Marlatt
John Bliven [63]
Abraham V. Horn [64]
Adam Fonda
Frederick Visher
Sampson Simons
William Schuyler [65]
Volkert Vedder
James McMaster [66]
Daniel Lane [67]

It is Resolved by this Committee, that the following Letter [70] be wrote to Guy Johnson Esqr. Vizt. —

We the United Committees of the Districts of Palatine, Conajohary, German flatts, Kingsland and of part of the Mohawk Districts [71] beg Leave to acquaint you, that upon reading a Letter wrote in the Mohawk Dialect from some Mohawk Indians to the Onydas, which Letter, we were assured, was found on the

Road and open added to some flying Reports spread a General Allarm in the Minds of the people, that the Indians would destroy the settlement along the Mohawk River, but upon perusing and considering a Letter from You to the Magistrates and Supervisors of the Upper Districts, intimating that you had appointed to have a general Congress with the six Nations this Spring, the fears of the people have in general subsided —

According to the Example of the Counties in this and the Neighbouring Colonies the people of the Districts we represent, have met in a peaceable Manner considered of the present Dispute with the Mother Country and the Colonies signed a general Association and appointed us a Committee to meet, in order to consult the Common Safety of our Rights and Liberties, which are infringed in a most enormous manner by inforcing oppressive and unconstitutional Acts of the British parliament, by an armed force in the Massachusetts Bay. ——

Was it any longer a Doubt, that we are oppressed by the Mother Country, and that it is the avowed Design of the Ministry to enslave us, we might perhaps be induced to use arguments to point out, in what particulars we

conceive that it is the Birthright of English Subjects to be exempted from all Taxes, except those, which are laid on them by their Representatives, and think We have a Right not only by the overruling Law of Selfpreservation, but by the Laws and Constitution of England to meet for the purpose, we have done. Which Meeting we probably would have postponed a while had there been the least kind of Probability, that the Petition of the General Assembly would have been noticed more than the united petition of almost the Whole Continent of America by their Delegates in Congress, which so far from being any way complied with, was treated with Superlative Contempt by the Ministry, and fresh Oppressions were and are daily heaped upon us. — Upon which principles, principles which are undeniable, We have been appointed, to concert Methods to contribute what little lies in our power, to save our devoted Country from Ruin and Desolation, which with the assistance of Divine Providence it is our fixed and determined Resolution to do, and if called upon, We shall be foremost in sharing the Toil and Danger of the Field. — We consider New England suffering in the Common Cause, and commiserate their dis-

tressed Situation; and we should be wanting in our Duty to our Country and to ourselves, and to our Posterity, if we were any longer backward in avowing our Determination to the World —

We know, that some of the Members of this Committee have been charged with compelling people to come into the Measures, which we have adopted and with drinking treasonable Toasts, but as we are convinced, that these Reports are false and malicious, spread by our Enemies with the sole Intent to lessen us in the Esteem of the World. And as we are conscious of being guilty of no Crime, and of having barely done our Duty, we are entirely unconcerned, as to anything, that is said of us, or can be done with us, we should however be careless of our Characters, did we not wish to detect the despicable Wretch, who could be so base as to charge us with things, which we never have entertained the most distant thought of. —

We are not ignorant of the very great Importance of y^r^ office as Superintendant of the Indians and therefore it is no more our Duty, than Inclination to protect You in the Discharge of the Duty of your proper Province

and we meet you with pleasure in Behalf of ourselves and our Contituents to thank you for meeting the Indians in the upper part of the County, which may be the Means of easing the people of the Remains of their Fears on their account, and prevent the Indians of committing Irregularities on their Way down to Guy Park; and we beg of You to use your Endeavors with the Indians to dissuade them from interfering in the Dispute with the Mother Country and the Colonies. —

We cannot think, that as You and your Family possess very large Estates in this County, you are unfavorable to American Freedom, altho' you may differ with us, in the Mode in obtaining a Redress of Grievances. —

Permit us further to observe, that We cannot pass over in Silence the Interruption, which the people of the Mohawk District met in their Meeting, which we are informed, was conducted in a peaceable Manner, and the inhuman Treatment of a Man, whose only Crime was being faithfull to his Employers and refusing to give an account of the Receipt of certain papers to persons, who had not the least Colour of Right to demand anything of that kind. —

We assure you, that We are much concerned

about it as two important Rights of English Subjects are thereby infringed, to wit, a Right to Meet, and to obtain all the Intelligence in their power —

We likewise are obliged to observe, that the keeping of a constant armed Force about you is extremely unnecessary and greatly inflames the Minds of the people, which as we do not mean to molest or interrupt the peace of any person whatever, and as we are well assured from proper authority that the New Englanders never meant to come into this County to take you or any of your Family into Captivity, we Request You to Disperse, which will certainly satisfy the people —

The Stopping and Searching people travelling upon the Kings Highway, which every Man has a Right to use unmolested, altho' it has (as we are informed from good authority) happened frequently, we cannot yet persuade ourselves, that it hath been Countenanced by you, and think, has only been practised by persons, who were fond of giving themselves airs of importance, altho' illegally. —

This Committee and every Member particularly for himself assures you, that we have not, nor hath any one of us to our knowledge,

ever spoken or made Use of any unbecoming or malevolent Language of you or any of your Family —

&c —

It is Ordered, that Edward Wall, Peter Waggoner, Nicholas Herkhimer, Adam Fonda and Frederick Fox be a Committee to wait upon Guy Johnson Esq[r] to deliver the same Letter, and request his answer,[71] and ask him, when to wait on him for his Answer, and request his approbation to appoint Sub-Committee to attend him at the Congress with the Indians —

Resolved, that all Expences accrued in Each District shall be raised in such a manner, as the Committee of each District shall judge most expedient, and the Expenses made by the General Committee shall be equally divided among the different Districts, and raised by Subscription of our Constituents.

Resolved, that the account of Mess[rs] Edward Wall, Daniel M[c]Dougal, Duncan M[c]Dougal and David Cox, amounting to Twelve pounds be passed and allowed by this Committee.

Resolved, that it be Recommended by this Body to the Committee of Palatine and Conajohary Districts, to agree with one fit and able

Man in each District, to be always ready to attend the Business of this Committee, as Occasion may Require, and that the Expence be a common Charge to the Whole —

Resolved, that 26. Members, or more, when met, and the Chairman is absent, have power to appoint a Chairman pro-tempore out of the Members so met — Who is to Issue the Chair, whenever the Chairman appears —

This Committee is adjourned untill to Morrow Morning 8 oClock precisely —

VIII. COUNTY COMMITTEE MEETING —

according to adjournment on Saturday the 3d June 1775 —

Mr Nicholas Herkheimer reported, that Mr Wall and him had awaited upon Col Johnson with the Letter of yesterday, who answered, that he would be ready to deliver his answer on Monday next —

Ordered, that Nicholas Herkheimer, Augustinus Hess and William Petry be a Committee to wait on Col Johnson for his answer, which they after perusal are to transmit to the Chairman —

Ordered also, that the before mentd three persons be a Committee to attend the Congress with the Inds and to procure some able person, as an Interpreter, and make Report in Writing to the Chairman. —

Resolved unanimously, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, as a very necessary Measure, that the Subscribers of our Association embody themselves into Companies,[73] and appoint proper officers. It is Recommended therefore to the Committee of each District, to carry the above Resolution into Effect with the greatest Expedition in such a manner, as they judge most proper, and make Report thereof to the next Meeting of this Body —

IX. COUNTY COMMITTEE MEETING — on Sunday the 11th June 1775 at the house of Gose Van Alstyne.[74]

Members present from :

Palatine	*Germanflatts and King'sland*
Messrs Christr P. Yates	Messrs Edward Wall
John Frey	Duncan McDougall
Isaac Paris	Augustinus Hess
Andrew Finck Jr.	Frederick Ahrendorff
Andrew Reber	John Frank
Peter Waggoner	

Daniel M^cDougal
Jacob Clock —
Anthony V. Fechten
George Eker j^r.

Conajoh^y

Nicholas Herkimer
Ebenezer Cox
William Seeber
John Pickert
Cunrad Pickert

Mohawks

John Marlatt
Abraham V. Horn
Adam Fonda
Frederick Visher
Abraham Yates
Sampson Simons
Volkert Vedder

Upon Reading Letters from the provincial Congress of 31^st. May and 3^d. June 1775, recommending therein the appointing of Deputies to meet in Congress — The Question being put, whether any should be sent down?

Which was carried in the Affirmative —

This Committee having great Confidence in the Integrity and Abilities of Christopher P. Yates, and John Marlatt Do Resolve, that the said Christopher P. Yates and John Marlatt be appointed, and are accordingly appointed to be Deputies, to attend the Provincial Congress without Delay and to act in Conjunction with the Members of that Body upon the very alarming & calamitous Situation of British America —

Resolved That it be Recommended, and

it is accordingly Recommended to the Sub Committee of each District with as much Dispatch as possible to make perfect Lists of all the Freeholders and Inhabitants of their respective Districts: — That the General Association be tendered to such, as have not signed it, and that exact Lists of such persons in each District, who shall refuse or neglect to sign the same, be Returned to this Committee by the first Day of July next, or sooner, in Order that the same be transmitted to the provincial Congress by the 15th Day of July next, or sooner —

Nicholas Herkheimer was appointed to be Chairman pro tempore, and accordingly took the Chair —

Resolved that on or before the Return of the Deputies of this County Ways and Means be devised to defray their Expences —

Ordered, that this Committee meet again at the House of Gose Van Alstyne on the first day of July next, unless some Emergency should require its Meeting sooner —

The Committee was adjourned accordingly —

COLONEL JACOB KLOCK'S HOUSE. ST. JOHNSVILLE

X. MEETING—

of the Committee of Conajohary District on the 15th June 1775, at the house of William Seeber in said Dist.—

In the presence of:

Messrs. Nicholas Herkimer, Chairman
William Seeber

This Meeting was, to have a Review of the associated Freeholders and Inhabitants of this Dist. who, after having been formed into Companies of Militia, have chosen their officers, agreeable to Regulations of our Provincial Congress—

And after Such performance concluded the Business—

XI. MEETING—

of the Palatine Committee on the 16th June 1775, at the house of Jacob Clock in the said District—

In the presence of:—

Messrs. Nicholas Herkimer, Chairman.
John Eisenlord[75] Clk.
Jacob Clock—

At this meeting the associated Freeholders & Inhabitants of this Dist. along the Mohk.

River were upon Notice assembled, and have also, after having been formed in Companies, choose their Officers —
and thereby concluded the Business of this Meeting —

XII. MEETING —

of the Committee of Germanflatts and King's-land Districts on the 17th June 1775. At the house of Frederick Fox in King'sland Dist.t —

Members present from:

Messrs Nicholas Herkheimer Chairn
John Eisenlord Clk

King'sland	*Germn flatts*
Messrs Michel Ittig	Messrs Duncan McDougall
Augustinus Hess	Edward Wall
Frederick Fox	William Petry
John Franck	Frederick Hellmer
George Herkheimer	Jacob N. Weaver
George Wents	John Petry
Fredk Ahrendorf	

The associated Freeholders and Inhabitants this Day assembled have been mustered, but the regular forming them into Companies of Militia and the choosing of Officers was postponed —

By this Meeting a Number of people of both Districts — which were not yet associated, have voluntarily signed the association; And in particular Mefs^rs. Rudolph Shoomaker, Jost Herkheimer jun^r.[77] and John Thompson,[78] who have last Spring joined with the Grand Jury of our County, and subscribed their Names to their Declaration, have this Day also associated themselves with us in the manner following: —

County Tryon ss — We the subscribers, Respective Freeholders of the said County, do hereby solemnly declare, and acknowledge the same on our Oaths, when Required that we will support our American Liberties to the utmost of our power in Company and association with our Neighbors and Fellow Freeholders of our said County.

Given under our hands this 17^th. Day of June 1775.

Rudolph Shoemaker
Joost Herkimer jun^r
John Thompson —

The Question was put to all those, who signed at this meeting respectively the association and the last mentioned particular Declaration, Whether they had signed by Motives of

Force or Fear, and being assured that they were in no Danger, in case they should refuse — And in answer thereupon — They jointly & severally declared, that they acted of their own free Will and Accord —

Mr. Edward Wall, a member of the Germanflatts Committee, begged to be excused in serving any longer in that office and for sufficient Reason it was Ordered that he shall be discharged —

XIII MEETING —

of the County Committee on the 29th Day of June 1775. at the house of Frederick Bellinger [80] in Germanflatts Dist.t —

Members present from :

Messrs Nicholas Herkimer Chairn

This Meeting extraordinary was occasioned by the Sachems and Warriors of the Oneyda and Tuscarora Indians,[79] who were assembled this Day aforesd at the house above mentd to hold a Congress with our Committee, joined by two deputised Members from the Committee of Schenectady, and four Members of

the Albany Committee, concerning our Country's Cause.

Several Speeches were mutually passed, and with agreeable assurances they said Nations renewed and confirmed peace and true Friendship with us, as Brothers, and also promised their zealous Endeavour to unite their Brothers of the Six Nations in alike Manner —

vide speech page

Marcus Ittig and William Cunningham [81] appeared before this Board, and gave their Affidavits, concerning Guy Johnson's malevolent Insinuations to the Indians of our American Cause —

vide Affid. page

The said Sachems and Warriors shewed their hearty Thanks for the kindnesses and generosities, they Received of this Board, and of the Freeholders of both Districts in particular, and before their Adieu Recommended to us, that we should not neglect to shut (in their manner of speaking) the Gate at Fort Stainwix, that nothing might pass and repass to the hurt of our Country — They further assured us, to communicate to us all the Remarkable News

and Intelligences they can get in Regard to these present Troubles, and desired the Same of us Reciprocally —

This Congress continued till to the 2d. Day of July a. c. when these Nations contentedly and peaceably departed for their Respective Castles — Therefore the County Committee Meeting limited in the last meeting of the 11th June, to be held on the 1st Day of July must be postponed to the 3d of July Inst. and it is also Ordered to meet on that Day at the appointed house of Gose Van Alstyne.

XIV. MEETING —

of the County Committee on the 3d. Day of July 1775. at the house of Gose Van Alstyne in Conaj. Dist.

Members present

Messrs. Nichol. Herkimer ch.
John Eisenlord Clk.

Palatine	*Conajohary*
Messrs. John Frey	Messrs. Wm. Seeber
Isaac Paris	Ebenezer Cox
Harmans. V. Slyck	

Peter Waggoner
George Eker j^{r}.
Andrew Finck j^{r}.
Andr^{w}. Reber

Mohawks

Adam Fonda
Sampson Simons
Volkert Vedder

King's land & flatts

Augustinus Hess
Fred^{k}. Helmer

The petition of the Settlers in N. Germantown,[82] containing their forming themselves into a Company of Militia under their chosen Officers was granted —

vide petition page

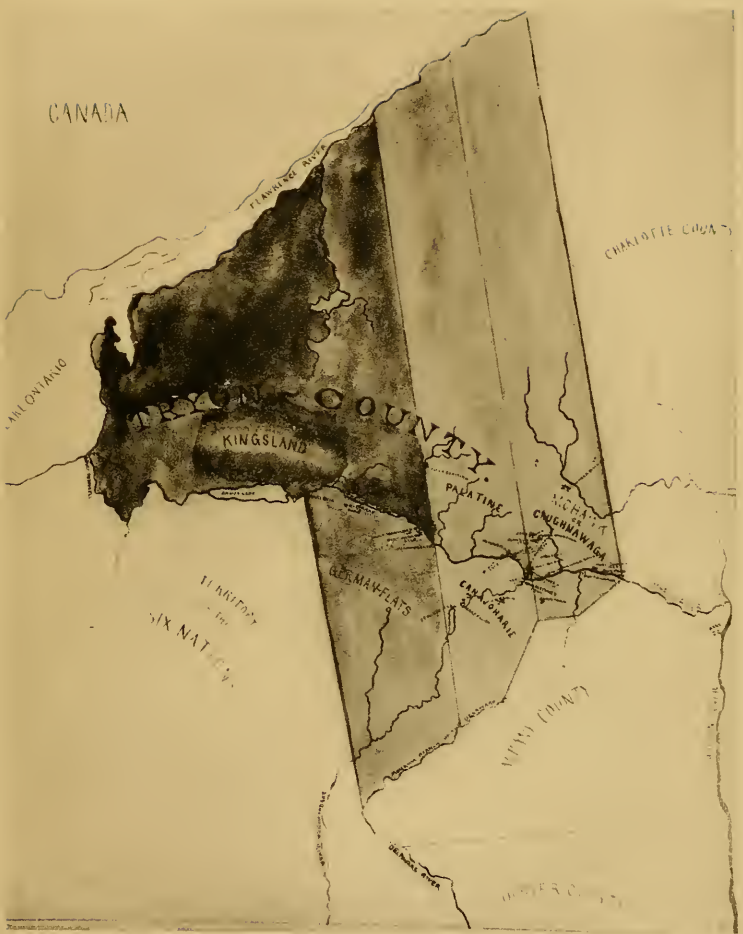
Upon Receipt of two Letters of the 2^{d}. & 3^{d}. July inst^{t}. from Mr. John Bliven, a Member of the Mohawk's Committee where in he informs this Board, that the Mayor of Albany, Abraham C. Cuyler, being suspicious as a Tory against the American Liberties made his Endeavors to escape from Albany with a considerable Quantity of some sort of effects and perhaps ammunition or other Warlike Stores, this Committee consulted upon the Matter, and upon further Intelligence, that the said Mayor passed in a Battoe well loaded already the District of Palatine, thought proper to send a party to stop and examine him and his

vide Letters page

Effects, and it is therefore unanimously Resolved & Ordered That Capt. George Herkheimer with a sufficient party shall immediately execute said Orders and if any suspicious Letters or Warlike stores shall be found with said Mayor, to take the Same in possession and send Him & his Battoe back —

Capt George Herkheimer after having performed the orders of him Requested, Reports, that by perusing the Letters which the said Mayor carried along in his Journey to Montreal, he found nothing suspicious, nor any Contents in Regard to our American Troubles. The Battoe of said Mayor was also Searched, and no ammunition, nor any Warlike Stores found, therefore permitted to pass on his Journey.

The associated Settlers at Fort Stainwix[83] represented to this Committee their dangerous Situation of abodes, being few in Number and daily exposed to an Invasion of the Frontiers, desiring a sufficient guard to be posted there at the said Fort, alledging also the opinion and advice of the Oneyda Indians, as their nigh Neighbors, that the gate at Fort Stainwix ought to be shut, to prevent all pernicious



MAP OF TRYON COUNTY

passing and repassing of Enemies to the Country — It is Resolved & ordered, that these Circumstances and Requests shall be communicated to the Committee of Schenectady, in order to send a party of abo^{t} 100. Men to the said post, as judged beneficial and a safeguard to this Country —

vide Letter page

Resolved and Ordered that our Delegate by the provincial Congress in N. York, Mr. Christopher P. Yates, shall be acquainted of some or our proceedings worthy of Remark, and to Request him for Militia Orders to procure the same, if not passed in the house already —

vide Letter page

A list of such persons Names, who refused or neglected to this Day, to sign[84] the association, within the Distr^{ts} of Palatine, Conajohary, Germanflatts and King'sland, and a Return thereof sent to our said Delegate, according to a Resolve passed in our County Committee Meeting held the 11th June 1775. at the house of Gose Van Alstyne —

vide Return page

Resolved, that the Committee of Palatine and Conajohary Districts shall meet on the

10th July next at the house of Jacob Clock in Palatine to hold a Congress with the Indians of the Conajohary Castles —

XV. MEETING —

of the Committee of Palatine & Conajohary Districts on the 10th July 1775. at the house of Jacob Clock in Palatine —

Members present:

Messrs Nichs Herkimer chairn
John Eisenlord, Clk.

Palatine	*Conajohary*
Messrs John Frey	Messrs Ebenezer Cox
Isaac Paris	William Seeber
Peter Waggoner	
Andrw Reber	
Jacob Clock	
Harms V. Slyck	
George Eker jr	

At the Request of the Sachems and Warriors of the Indians in the Conajohary Castles,[85] This Committee met to hold a Congress with them, in regard to our present Troubles and their Concern about the same —

Speech page}

The said Indians, upon an address to them from this Committee interpreted by Mrs. Peggy Johnson, the Wife of Thariachyako Johnson (an Indian of the said Castles) answered in a long Speech, assuring us of their true Friendship and to be entirely neuter in the present Controversies of America with the Mother Country —

The Freeholders and Inhabitants of both Districts have been very generous and liberal, in tributing to the said Indians a considerable present of flower, pease Ind^{n}. Corn, Bread, pork and money — wherefore the said Indians shewed their hearty Thanks to the Committee — And —

The next ensuing Day, on the 11th July inst^{t}. they, the said Sachems and Warriors, made another Speech to us, under the same assurances of peace and Brothership, as above ment^{d} and therewith concluded the Business of this Meeting —

XVI. MEETING —

of the Committees of Palatine and Conajahary Districts on Thursday the 13th July 1775. at the house of Gose Van Alstyne —

Members present:

Mr. Christopher P. Yates, chairn.

Palatine	*Conajohary*
Messrs. John Frey	Messrs. John Moore
George Eker junr.	Ebenezer Cox
Andrw. Reber	Samuel Campbell
Jacob Clock	David Cox
Peter Waggoner	Wm. Seeber
Harms. V. Slyck	John Pickert
Andr. Finck	
Daniel McDougal	

This Committee taking under Consideration the Necessity of Administring an Oath of Secrecy to the Members of this Committee. — Do Resolve, that the following Obligation be administered to every Member of the Same Committee.

vide Committee Oath p.

Ordered, that the following Letter be wrote to the Committee of Schenectady and Albany; Vizt. —

Mr. Ebenezer Cox informed this Board, that Mr. Peter S. Tygert[86] told this Informant, that he was informed by a person, who we have Reason to think, has it from good authority, that Col. Johnson was ready with 800. or 900. Indians to make an Invasion of this County,

that the same Indians were to be under the Command of Joseph Brand[87] and Walter Butler,[88] and that they were to fall on the Inhabitants below the Little Falls, in order to divide the people in two parts, and were to march yesterday, or the Day before; Cap^{t} Jacob Clock informed this Board, that this Morning about an hour before day three Indians of Fort Hunter[89] came to his House from Oswego in their Way home, that he was informed by a free Negroman, a serv^{t} of him, that they had each a Bag of powder on their horses, that they staid about an hour and then went off.— From these and other concomitant Circumstances, We have but too much Reason to think, it is true, and that all our Enemies in this County will appear in arms against us, as soon as the Indians are nigh to us, which from the above Information we must expect in a few Days —

We have sent off a party of people by Way of a Scout, to find out, if possible, the Rout of the Indians, and to give us early Intelligence — Our ammunition is so scant that We cannot furnish three hundred Men so as to be able to make a Stand against so great a Number —

In these deplorable Circumstances We look up to You for assistance both in Men and Ammunition, to save this County from Slaughter and Desolation, which We beg you will not be backward to afford us as soon as possible —

We have ordered some of our Companies up towards the Little Falls,[90] who are to keep scouting parties out; And we intend to keep sitting until such Time, as we can be convinced of our Safety.— This is the more alarming to us, as we shall be obliged in a few days to begin with our harvest. Men are therefore absolutely necessary —

We beg of you to forward this by Express[91] to Albany & Copies from these to the provincial Congress and to General Schuyler —

——— &c ———

Ordered, that the above so far as it relates to the Name of the person who gave Mr Tygert the Intelligence, be kept a profound Secret —

Resolved, that necessary Orders in that Concern be sent immediately to the Captains —

Adjourned till tomorrow morning at 10. o'clock at the house of Wm Seeber in Conajohary Dist —

XVII. MEETING—

of the Committees of the Mohawks, Palatine & Conajohary Districts, according to adjournment on the 14th. July 1775. at the house of William Seeber in Conajohary Distt.—

Members present:

Messrs. Nicholas Herkimer chairn. p. t.
Christopher P. Yates Charn.

Palatine

Messrs. Daniel McDougal
Jacob Clock
Peter Waggoner
Harmd. V. Slyck
Andrw. Reber
Andw. Finck jr.
George Eker jr.

Conajohary

Messrs. Ebenezer Cox
Samuel Clyde
Samuel Campbell
Wm. Seeber

Mohawks

Sampson Simons
Adam Fonda
Volkt. Vedder
Daniel Lane

Resolved, that the following Order be given to Ebenezer Cox, who is appointed by this Committee, to have the Command of the Companies of Palatine & Company —

vide order page.

Ordered that Direction be given to the Members of this Committee, who reside in Cherry Valley and places adjacent —

concerning this Indn. alarm —

Adjourned till the Morrow Morning at the house of Werner Tygert at the Fall hill —

XVIII. MEETING —

of the above mentd Districts according to adjournment on the 15th July 1775. at the house of Werner Tygert —

Members present:

Messrs { Nicholas Herkimer chairn p. t. / Christopher P. Yates chairn }

Palatine	*Mohawks*
Messrs Isaac Paris	Messrs Adam Fonda
Jacob Clock	Volkt Vedder
Andrw Finck jr	John Bliven
Daniel McDougall	Wm Schuyler
Peter Waggoner	Abrm V. Horn
	James McMaster

Conajohary

David Cox
Wm Seeber

Mr Peter S. Tygert was called in and made his Deposition of the Information, he had of the Invasion of Indians —

vide Depos. page

Major Ten Broeck [92] was sent for, to give an account of his Conduct since the first Day of April last made his Declaration voluntarily —

HOUSE OF GOSE VAN ALSTINE. CANAJOHARIE

vide Ten Broeck's oblig. p.

Ordered, that a Letter be sent to the provincial Congress, containing the Declining of the Officers appointed for a Companie to be raised, — to Recommend instead —

Christopher P. Yates, as Capt.
John Kayser jr.[93] } as Lieut.s
Andrw Finck jr. }

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vide Letter page

Received answers from the Schenectady and Albany Committees dated this Inst. day upon the Letter sent to them from us, dated July 13 1775 — together with 150 lb of powder from Albany at £25. pr Ct. — and 300lbs lead from Schenectady at 40/ pr Ct. —

vide Letters page

Received two Letters from Mr. Ebenezer Cox, Commander of Several Companies of Militia, containing some Reports from his post —

vide Letters page

Adjourned till the next morning the 16th. July at the same house of Werner Tygert —

XIX. MEETING —

of the Committees on the other side mentioned in the house of said Werner Tygert on the 16th July 1775 according to adjournment.

Letter page} Received a Letter of Mr. John Eisenlord, containing a Report of his Scouting party sent out according to orders —

Ordered, that Capt. John Petry[94] shall be sent to Albany under a guard with a Letter containing his Misconduct —

vide Letter page

Concluded the Business of these Meetings —

XX. MEETING

of the Committees of Palatine and Conajohary Districts on the 12th of August 1775. at the house of William Seeber —

Members present:

Messrs. Nichols. Herkimer, Chairman
John Eisenlord, Clk.

Palatine	*Conajohary*
Messrs. John Frey	Messrs. Ebenezer Cox
Isaac Paris	Wm Seeber
Peter Waggoner	John Pickert
Daniel McDougall	Samuel Clyde
Andrw Reber	Samuel Campbell

Harm^{s} V. Slyck
Jacob Clock

Conrad Pickert
David Cox

Ordered, that advertisements be put on the most publick places from Carogue Creek[95] to N. Germantown included within the Palatine District, to elect two New Members of Committee for said Palat. Dist^{t} on Fryday the 10th Augst instant at the house of Charles Gordon, near the Canada Creek[96] —

Ordered, to be Sent a letter to the provincial Congress in N. York for Instructions and Regulations, how to act in Military and civil Matters against the Enemies of Association and the Transgressors of our Orders; and how to defray the Expenses necessary for the Common Cause within our County —

Joseph Meby[97] appeareth, who has been accused to engage and Stir up Indians, to rescue Cap^{t} John Petry, being sent prisoner for Misconduct to Albany, and acknowledgeth before this Board, to have acted entirely wrong, and beggs to be exscused for this first fault, — Which upon his promise of Sincerity and future good Behaviour tow^{d} the Association and in particular to this Committee, was granted and he discharged —

Resolved & Ordered that a General Meeting of all the Committees of this County shall be held on Fryday the 23d. Inst. at the house of Gose Van Alstyne in Conajohary District, and therefore Letters to be sent by the Clk. for Notice —

XXI. MEETING —

of the County Committee on Fryday the 25th of August 1775. at the house of Gose Van Alstyne —

Members present :

Messrs. Nicholas Herkimer, Chairn.
John Eisenlord, Clk —

Palatine	*Mohawks*
Messrs. John Frey	Messrs. Fredk. Visher
Andrew Reber	Volkt. Vedder
Peter Waggoner	Adam Fonda
Daniel McDougal	Samson Simon
Jacob Clock	John Bliven
Harms. V. Slyck	Wm Schuyler
George Eker jr.	Abraham V. Horn
Anthony V. Fechten	Abraham Yates

Conajohary	*G. flatts & King'sland*
Ebenezer Cox	Augustinus Hess
David Cox	Michel Ittig
Wm. Seeber	Frederick Ahrendorf

John Moore
Samuel Campbell
Samuel Clyde
Henry Heints [98]

William Petry
Henry Harter

Resolved, and agreed unanimously, that the following new Chosen Members by the Freeholders and Inhabitants of Palatine District, joining the Old ones, agreeable to a late advertisement dated the 12th inst: And also all the Several old Members, who have not taken the Oath as Committee, shall be Sworn by the Oath prescribed in the 5th Meeting —

Sworn this day — *NB. Old members not yet sworn*

Anthony V. Fechten, Abraham Yates — old members
Fredk Hellmer, John Demooth [102] — King's-land
John Eisenlord, Christian Nelles [99], Wm Fox junr [100], John J. Clock [101] — new members
George Herkheimer, John Franck [103], Fredk Fox [104] — G. flatts
Cunrad Pickert — Conajohary

Affidavits,

Concerning the Case happened the 25th June last past between John Fonda of the Mohawk's Dist: and a Servant of the Sheriff Alexandr White[106] —

John Kinton appeareth as an Evidence in this Case and upon Oath Saith, that as he was plowing upon John Fonda's Land, Saw the

Servant of the Sheriff Alexander White named Thomas Hunt, coming through said Fonda's Land with a brushsith [105] upon his Shoulder, and meeting said John Fonda with an hoe, who did forbid said Thomas to walk through his Land but to use the footpath along the fence, as he cannot pass his Land without doing damage, having got these meadow ground and pease sowed. The said Thomas replied upon, that he would go through that Land in Spite of said Fonda. — The Deponᵗ also saw them both taking hold of one another but not Strike and among other threatning and scolding Words the Depᵗ heard Thomas Hunt say, that he would be the Death of Said Fonda, and afterwards he saw John Fonda turning homewards —

John Fonda [107] appeareth and on Oath declareth that he going homewards from howing Corn, the Servant of the Sheriff White, named Thomas Hunt, going over his Land, where meadow ground and pease was Sowed. He forbid him, the said Servᵗ not to make a Road through his Land to his Damage, but to use the footpath along the fence. The said Thomas would not follow his said Fonda's Orders, but on the Contrary tried to resist Spitefully, and in

particular took up his Brushsith to strike Fonda, whereupon Fonda for his Defence gave him a blow with his hoe, and knocked him down. After this the said Thomas used the Deponent very ill with scolding and threatning, especially expressed himself in these words, that he would be the Death of him the said Fonda, but Fonda left him and went his Way home.

This is the Case, wherefore Said Fonda was arrested and put to our County Goal[108] by the Sheriff White —

Adjourned till to Morrow —

XXII. MEETING —

According to adjournment on Saturday the 26th Augst. 1775. at the said Van Alstyne's house —

The same Members present as yesterday :

Resolved and agreed unanimously by this County Committee, That 1) All Disorders and Disobediences of Non Commissioned Officers and private Soldiers shall be punished by the Officers of their respective Companies, by inflicting fines according to the Acts of our as-

sembly therefore provided, and recovered the same by distraining the Goods and Chattels of the Transgressors, if any to be got, but in Default of goods & chattels such Transgressor shall be brought before the Committee of his District, by which he shall be sentenced. — And this Resolve shall be in Force, until We shall be provided with a Militia Act from the provincial Congress —

2.) If any Disputes or other Misdemeanors in Civil Matters should arise among Neighbors, Freeholders, Inhabitants and Residents within our County, the same shall be determined and decided by three Members of Committee of such District, where the case shall exist. But if the Members are too Distant, then by One of the Committee and a Jury of Six Freeholders chosen by the parties themselves, or if the parties cannot agree upon, chosen by the said Member of the Committee within such District, where the Disputes and Disorders arose, the Case not exceeding £5. — N. York's Currency —

3.) The Damages and forfeitures, as well as the Costs of Suit by such Tryals Shall be recovered in manner above provided in the first Resolve —

MOUNT JOHNSON, OR FORT JOHNSON. BUILT BY SIR WILLIAM JOHNSON

4.) The Officers of each Companie of Militia within our County first chosen and elected are confirmed to keep their Offices and Respective Appointments, and shall be obeyed as such by their respective Companies — according to the Return delivered to the Committee —

5.) The Constables already appointed shall pay Obedience to the Orders of the Committee —

6.) The Officers chosen at the first Meeting of N. Germantown for a Company of Militia in that precinct be established as the Right Ones, and all the other Meetings and Votings be void and of no Effect. Viz^{t} —

The Same, which those Settlers of that place have nominated in their petition delivered to the General Committee in the Meeting are hereby confirmed, as

John Eisenlord — Cap^{t}
John Kayser — 1st Lieu^{t}
Adam Bellinger [110] — 2^{d} Lieut.
John Smith [111] — Ensign —

7.) The said Companie formed shall begin at Jacob Staring's [112] included, and take in all the Inhabitants from 16 to 50 Years of Age on the North side of the highroad to Cunrad Pickert's, Thence all the Inhabitants of N. Germantown of the ages above ment^{d} and

extend so far in S^{r} W^{m} Johnson's Deceased Settlement,[113] until the Companie amounts to 60. private Men, the Sergeants & Corporals included —

8.) The following persons are nominated by the Majority of Votes, as Field Officers for each respective District —

VIZ^{T}

Conajohary

1st Colonel Nicholas Herkheimer
Lieu^{t} Col^{l} Ebenezer Cox
Major — Robert Wells [114] —
Adju^{t} — Samuel Clyde —

Palatine

Col^{l} Jacob Clock
Lieu^{t} Col^{l} Peter Waggoner
Major-Harm^{s} V. Slyck
Adjut^{t} Anthony V. Fechten

1st Battaln. — 2d Batn.

Mohawk's

Col^{l} Frederick Fisher
Lieu^{t} Col^{l} Adam Fonda
Major — John Bliven
Adju^{t} Robert Yates

King's land & G. flatts

Col^{l} Hanyoost Herkheimer [115]
Lieu^{t} Col^{l} Peter Bellinger [116]
Major Hanyoost Shoemaker [117]
Adj^{t} — John Demooth [109]

3d Batn.

By the Majority of another Voting of this Committee, Colonel Nicholas Herkheimer, Esq. is appointed Chief Colonell & Commander for the County of Tryon —

Resolved, That each Committee of a District shall nominate their respective pathmasters, to make and keep in Repair the highroads [118] —

Resolved, That a Memorial shall be sent to Major General Schuyler [119] at Ticonderoga,[120]

for a couple Companies Militia under his Command to secure our exposed frontiers.

Upon an Enquiry of the proceedings in Regard to an advertisement[121] dated the 28th July last put on by Christopher P. Yates Esq.r as Chairman of this Committee, — It was found proved by the Examination and Declaration of each Member in particular of the Palatine Committee at this Meeting that the Same was performed without the Consent or Consult of the Major part of the Committee, and therefore Resolved unanimously, that the said advertisement was put on illegally, and therefore of no Value —

EXAMINATIONS AND AFFIDAVITS —

concerning the Threatnings of Alexander White, late Sheriff for our County —

Major Jelles Fonda,[122] upon Examination deposeth and saith on oath, that he heard the Sheriff say oftentimes, that he would fight for his King and Country with his association and the party on the King's Side like a brave Man, and swore to be Sure, that they would conquer, but the party on the Country's side do fight with the halters on their

Necks. — He also heard him many times declare, that he hopes to have the pleasure of hanging a good Many yet for their Resistance against the Acts of Parliament and further saith not —

John Vedder[123] upon Oath deposeth and saith,
(dº) that he heard the Sheriff often say, that the King's people fight for Glory, but the Country doth fight with the halters on their Necks; And that an Army is a coming down from Canada, and they will pick out the houses and further saith not —

William Wallace[124] under Oath deposeth and
(dº) saith, that the Sheriff White did one Day at John Vedder's publickly say — The Estates of the Country here are all forfeited, especially pointing upon Adam Fonda and Sampson Simons, and the people will be hanged, and further saith not —

William Seeber under Oath Saith, that on a
of Conajohary } certain day in the Beginning of May last abot 9. o Clock in the Night came Wm Johnson[125] (the Indian) another Indian and Sheriff White in the Deponent's house, called for Liquor, and the Sheriff immediately en-

quired for the Answer upon a Letter, which the Deponent Rec^{d} of Co^{l} Claus that same Day, and insisted upon that answer till the next Morning, and further said with many Curses, that if he had been here this day by signing the Association he would have shot some of 'em through their hearts, and the Rest he would have carried away to the Westward, to be hanged there. Upon which the Deponent's Son, Jacob Seeber [126] did reply, that it was not such an easy Matter to do that; Whereupon the Sheriff got his pistol, cocked it and presented it to the Breast of said Jacob, saying: You d . . . d Rebell, if you say one Word more, I 'll blow your Brains out, and the Indians had Swords and knives in their hands, but notwithstanding it was no hurt done, as said Jacob made himself out of their Sight, and further saith not —

Anthony Van Fechten under Oath deposeth and saith, that When he was at Johnson Hall last Month to get the Sheriff, the said Sheriff did with many extraordinary Curses, declare to the Deponent, that h'e ll have to hang a good many yet of this County before long —

The same Deponent further declareth on Oath, that on the same Day, being the 21st of July last he heard Peter Bown standing at the front Door of Johnson Hall express himself in those Words to him the Dep.t — We have as good Men among us, as you have, and we will shew you the same: And further saith not —

EXAMINATIONS & AFFIDAVITS AGst LEWIS CLEMENT [127] —

Major Jellis Fonda appeareth and Saith under Oath, that at the Time when Lewis Clement returned from Guy Johnson of Oswego, the said Clement expressed himself, that he has 12. guns at home, & therewith could and would Sweep perhaps soon a good part of Kachanawago, at least with his family for his part, which the Deponent shall see very soon —

Lewis Clement * appeareth & under Oath declareth, that on Monday the 24th of July last in the Night he met Lewis Clement with 4. Indians and 1. Squah and 1. Indian Boy going towards Sacontago for a Convoy of the Sheriff White, who did curse & Swear, and

* This is an error in the entry. The deponent was Lodowick Putman (Potman).

Saying to the Deponent: Is it not a pity, that I being a Man of a good Estate must go and leave the same for sake of these d . . . d Fondas, but I shall soon make up a good Number of Indians, and return with them to destroy and ruin such people all here about, but you, (meaning said Potman) have nothing to fear, because you abide in a safe place, which (being near Johnstown) shall not then be hurted. —

EXAMINATION & AFFIDAVIT OF NICHOLAS ZESSINGER

concerning Adam Loucks Esq^r of Stonearaby —

Nicholas Zessinger appeareth, and on Oath deposeth, that last Sunday before the Church at Stonearaby there was a Discourse abo^t the present Troubles, and he the Deponent heard Adam Loucks[128] say, that it is yet possible the King may get the Victory over the Country, and upon some Replies of the people about him, he the said Adam Loucks further said, that within a fortnight you will see a great Confusion here among the people, and thinks, the people will yet Kill one another themselves, and further saith not —

Anna Catharina, the wife of Nicholas Zessinger afores.d deposeth the same, under Oath, as her husband related, and further saith not —

Adam Loucks[128] appeareth and promiseth, to clear himself by sufficient Evidences of what he then said, at the next Meeting of the Committee of Palatine District, to which it was adjourned, for want of the Evidence pres.t —

Affidavit of Jacob Ja. Clock, v.s Charles Gordon, concerning Christian House and Roger Baxtor —

Jacob Ja. Clock under Oath deposeth and saith, that to day, when he had Christian House prisoner to appear before the General Committee, to answer some Questions to be laid against him, especially concerning a certain Letter sent to the Committee under his Name, dated the 11.th of this Inst.t he the Deponent heard Charles Gordon Say, that if the Committee will have any Reason for the quest.d Letter sent by him and Said House, they must send for himself, the said Gordon, and he would answer for the same at any Time, when desired —

The said Deponent under Oath further saith, that at the Time, when he had Christian House prisoner, at the house of Rogert Baxtor, the said Baxtor expressed himself in these Words: God d . . . n it, Christian House is a great fool to appear before this Committee; The great Man Hannickel Herkheimer, must send 150. Men up for him the said House, and then We will knock some of em down. And generally the said Baxtor and Charles Gordon did blackart and illuse in villain Expressions the whole General Committee jointly & severally; and further saith not —

Deposition of Doct^r William Petry, a Member of our Committee, concerning his Imprisonment by Alexander White, Sheriff—

William Petry under Oath saith, that as he was in John'stown to look for his Servant Runaway, who by the Information of one Conner should have been that Time at the Same place or thereabo^t, the Sheriff White stopped the Deponent in the Street, and told him, that he must go to Goal. Whereupon the Deponent enquired for the Writ against him, or any other Reason, Why he should go to Goal, but the

said Sheriff replied shortly to him that it is too late to give this prisoner close. The next Day the said Sheriff wrote a Recognizance of £60. penalty, and wanted to have the same signed by the said Petry, which when done, said he, shall Relieve him immediately; This Signing the Deponent refused, and after some hours past, the Jailkeeper ordered the Deponent out of the Goal again, without any Bail or Recognizance, and further saith not —

Adjourned the Meeting till to morrow Morning.

XXIII. MEETING

of the County Committee continued according to adjournmen^{t} on Sunday the 27th Augst 1775. at the same house of Gose Van Alstyne —

The same Members present, as yesterday:

David Cox, a Member of our Committee, appeareth and upon Oath deposeth & Saith that at a certain Meeting and Voting held the 5th of this Inst^{t} at the house of Henry W. Nelles[129] in Palatine Distr^{t} he heard Thomas Baxtor argue a great Deal in Regard and Behalf of the persons on the day afores^{d} chosen

THE TURNPIKE. PALATINE CHURCH IN THE DISTANCE

by him & his Company for Members of the Committee for said Palat. District, and in particular pretended, that these new chosen members shall soon make an Alteration in Orders, and shall fall upon such people like Henry W. Nelles, and many others alike; The said Thomas did express himself in many threatnings agst the said Nelles —

Also this Night last past, when the Dept fetchd said Thomas prisoner upon Orders of this Committee now Sitting, the said Thomas Baxtor refused several times to appear before this Board, and declared to have no Regard to them, for, says he, they are a parcel of great Rascals, and that he would not be forced to go; he used also in particular the Dept with very ill and scolding Words —

Uriel Comes, Constable, appeareth and giveth his Evidence under Oath & saith that at the time, when he served a Subpoena to Christian House, Thomas Baxtor being then and there present said, that Christian House would be a d . . . d fool to appear before the Committee upon this Subpoena, for this Committee is a d . . . d club of people, and if they will sit again, (Thomas said,) they will get a good flocking, and upon Reply of the

Dep^{t} who the same shall do, Baxtor answered: We and in particular Henry Zimmerman can do it, and he'll be sure, that he would perform it —

Jacob Ja. Clock further under Oath deposeth and saith, that when he went with his prisoner, Christian House aforesaid, from the homestead of Roger Baxtor, his Son John followed him and desired him the Deponent not to tell anything to the Committee, of what has been said by his Father against the said Committee, but the said John says further that if Christian House shall be sent to Albany Goal, he would spend all his Estate in the Civil Law against Such proceedings —

Resolved and Ordered, that these Baxtors, House and Gordon shall be fetch'd immediately before this Board —

Whereas it appeareth to the General Committee of this Board by the foregoing several Evidences against Christian House, Charles Gordon, Roger Baxtor and Thomas Baxtor, and also by their own Declarations and Expressions before this General Committee, they the said prisoners did not only misuse the Committee with unmannerly and scandalous Expressions and Reflections, but also pretend

not to be liable to obey the Orders and Directions of the old chosen Committee, insisting intirely upon their new Members voted by a small party of Inhabitants in Palatine District —

Therefore it is

Resolved by the Majority of Votes, That notwithstanding Such Ill Behaviours and mutinous pretensions the Said accused persons, in Case they acknowledge their faults, and promise to pay strict obedience in future to all further needful Directions and Orders of our General Committee, as well as of the old chosen & confirmed Palatine Committee to the Behalf of the Common Cause, they for this Time shall be forgiven. But if they will not accept of this our Indulgence, and insist upon their mutinies, they shall be sent immediately down to the Care and further Discretion of the Albany Committee —

Thomas Baxtor did acknowledge his fault, hoped to be forgiven, and will obey all further Regulations and Orders of this General Committee, and of the respective Sub-Committees of each District. —

But afterwards refused to sign to his Dec-

laration aforesaid, and insisted with the Rest of his accused Company to be sent to Albany — Therefore

Resolved, that Roger Baxter, Thomas Baxter, Charles Gordon and Christian House shall be bound under an Obligation of £100. — to appear before the Albany Committee at Albany on the 26th Day of Sept.r next for their Tryal —

vide Obligation & Declaration page

XXIV. MEETING —

of the County Committee on Thursday the 7th Sept.r 1775. at the House of Gose Van Alstyne —

Members present

{Mess.rs Nicholas Herkimer, chair.n
John Eisenlord Clk}

Mohawks

Mess.rs Fred.k Visher
Volkert Vedder
Sampson Simons

Conajohary

Ebenezer Cox
Wm Seeber
John Moore
Samuel Campbell

Palatine

Mess.rs Harm.s V. Slyck
Jacob Clock
John Frey
Christian Nelles
And.w Reber
John J.s Clock
Peter Waggoner
Isaac Paris
Daniel McDougal

Conrad Pickert
David Cox

King's land & G'flatts
Jacob N. Weaver
Fred^k Hellmer
John Franck
George Wents
George Herkimer

Whereas it is an unanimous Complaint of all the Freeholders and Inhabitants in our County (only the Tories Excepted) against the Scandalous, dammaging & dangerous Conduct of our late Sheriff, Alexander White, as he has proved Sufficiently himself unworthy of his Office and an enemy in general and in particular to our American Cause; Therefore the County Committee at the Expiration of his Commission thought necessary to the Satisfaction of the publick and to the Behalf of our Constitution, to have a free Voting of a New Sheriff by the Freeholders and Inhabitants of our County.—

In Order thereof the Voting begun, and at the Conclusion

— John Frey Esq^r —

has got the Majority of Votes for High Sheriff of the County of Tryon — (The Votes being 89 for him ag^st 31–11. & 3 for others set up.)

Resolved and Ordered, that these proceedings shall be sent in a Letter to our provincial

Congress, and recommended to their Interest and further Direction —

Resolved, That the Members of the Mohk District improve the first and best Opportunity, to take Messrs. Lewis Clement and Peter Bown, and them safely keep in Custody, until the General Committee be notified and come together, to judge of the Matter —

Resolved That Mr. John Eisenlord doth fetch from Albany 4: or 500 Wt of powder and Lead in proportion, which is to be deposited in the care of Mr Daniel McDougall, until Ordered by the Colonels of each Respective District, to be distributed to the people of each Distt in proportion, as the Quantity, that may be obtained, can bear: And that the Capts immediately call their Companies under Arms, and Examine, what Quantity of Ammunition they want, and make a Return to their Respective Cols so that they may be supplied out of the publick Store —

Delivered therefore an Order to the said Mr Eisenlord on the Committee of Albany —

Crownidge Kinkead,[130] John Collins[131] and Marte J. Van Alstyne[132] signed to the Association

Adjourned till to Morrow Morning —

XXV. MEETING —

of the County Committee continued according to adjournm^{t} on Fryday the 8th Sept. 1775 at the house afores^{d} —

Members present, as yesterday:

Agreed and Resolved unanimously, that from henceforth Every Member of or belonging to this Board, when Legally notified shall without fail appear at the Time and place appointed to meet, under the penalty of forfeiting the Sum of Twenty Shillings, besides being obliged to bear their equal part of the Expences of the Committee at that Sitting, provided that they cannot give a Sufficient Reason, why they do not appear or attend; But in Case of Sickness, or any other sufficient Reason Satisfactory to the Committee, then to be free, but otherwise shall be liable to pay the above penalty right down to the Committee, which fines are to be converted to defray the publick Expence, to which agreement We have annexed our Names the day above ment^{d} —

Provided Also that the German flatts and King'sland District, and also the Mohawk District may send the Major part of their

Members instead of all, as a Sub-Committee of them appointed.—

Also that no Member, when assembled, shall withdraw or depart without Leave of the Chairman or the whole Board be discharged, under the above penalty —

Peter P his + mark Waggoner	James McMaster	Nicholas Herkheimer
Harmanus V. Slyck	Volkert Vedder	John Marlatt
Sampson Simons	Christian Nelles	Fredk Hellmer
John Clock	George Ekert jr	John Moore
Cunrad his + mark Pickert	Adam Fonda	Fredk his + mark Arendorf
David Cox	Anthony V. Veghten	
George Herkimer	Augustinus Hess	William Seeber
Wm his + mark Fox junr	Henrich Harter 133	Andreas Reber
Duncan McDougall	Abrm Van Horne	John Frank
John Jacob Weber	Isaac Paris	John Bliven
Frederick Fisher	John Frey	Ebenezer Cox
Samuel Clyde	John Eisenlord	George Wents
Wm Schuyler	Danl McDougall	Jacob Clock

Sworn this day by the Committee Oath as Members of our Board,

John Frank
George Herkheimer
Cunrad Pickert
Fredk Hellmer

Resolved, and Ordered, to acquaint in a Letter the Albany Committee of the Disturbances of Gordon & Baxtors, and to desire their immediate answer, whether they would undertake the

A CLIFF ON THE CANAJOHARIE CREEK

Tryal thereof, as referred to them in our last Meeting under an Obligation of the said accused persons signed at the said Meeting — vide Letter page

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XXVI. MEETING —

of the County Committee upon express Request of our late Delegate, John Marlatt Esq.r on Wednesday the 13.th September 1775. at the house of Gose V. Alstyne —

Members present:

{Messrs. Nicholas Herkheimer Chn
John Eisenlord Clk.}

Mohawks

Messrs. John Marlatt
Volkert Vedder
Frederick Fisher
Adam Fonda
Abrm V. Horne
John Bliven
Sampson Simons
Wm Schuyler
James McMaster
Abraham Yates

Conajohary

Ebenezer Cox
David Cox
John Moore
Samuel Clyde

Palatine

Messrs. Anth. V. Fechten
John Frey
Isaac Paris
George Ekert jr.
Harms. V. Slyck
Peter Waggoner
Andw Reber
Wm Fox
John Js. Clock
Christian Nelles
Jacob Clock

King's land — G.'flatts.

Fredk Arendorf
Augusts. Hess
George Wents

Samuel Campbell	John Demooth
Cunrad Pickert	Henry Harter
Wm Seeber	Duncan McDougall

According to a Letter from the Committee of Safety of N. York our Major & a Quartermaster to each Battn. shall be returned, and the Resolve for civil Matters repealed.

vide Letter page

John Demooth, a Member of our Committee is sworn this Day to the Committee Oath —

Resolved & Ordered, that Silence shall be kept in every Convention of the Committee, and if any one has anything to mention, he shall move in a regular manner to the Chairman, and all private Discourse shall be omitted —

The Sachem Abraham[134] of the Mohawks at Fort Hunter, and with him two Warriors of the same Castle appeared before this Board, and maketh a long Speech interpreted by Quackinbush to this Committee, wherein he endeavoureth to convince us of the Ignorance and Non Consent of the Sachems and most all the Warriors of their Castle in guiding Lewis Clement and Peter Bown with the Sheriff White, as Suspicioned Enemies to Canada.

He asserts, that they want nothing to be but Brothers with us, and to be entirely unconcerned with the Enemies of our American Cause. He repeatedly assures us in the Name of all the Sachems and Warriors of said Castle, that no more any treacherous Communication with our said Enemies of them shall be permitted, nor less any such guide or guides towards our Enemies, but if in Case any one should apply to the Castle in future for such assistance, they would not only acquaint immediately our Committee thereof, but also endeavor to seize such person and deliver him bodily before the Committee, and generally he remembers the new Covenant made with us in Albany, which they as true Brothers shall and will keep inviobly —

This Board replieth in answer upon this Speech, to be heartily thankful for their Brotherly assurances and to be always ready to shew unto them reciprocally true affections —

John Marlett Esq^{r} moved, that Cap^{t} Stevenson on his Journey to Canada shall be stopped, and sent back to Albany under a Guard —

Resolved by the Majority of Votes, that said Stevenson shall be sent back to the Committee

of Schenectady without a guard upon his Word of honor, to return with his Boat —

Ordered the Same, and willingly performed immediately by said Capt. Stevenson —

The whole Committee now present, being 36. members, was sworn, according to a Resolve passed in the provincial Congress the 1st Sept. a. c. to try Lewis Clement and Peter Bown of the Mohawk's District, now prisoners of this Board — vide Resolve page —

Affidavit of John Bown —

John Bown of the Mohawk's deposeth under Oath and Saith that when Lewis Clement took farewell from him, he the Said Clement expressed himself in these Words: — Now I go to Canada, & shall never come back, till it is peace. —

The prisoner Lewis Clement gives himself over to the Breast of this Board —

By Examining Several Affidavits against Lewis Clement hereafore in the Meeting inserted as well as the Copies of Affidavits Recd p. the Committee of Albany from Major General Schuyler of Ticonderoga, the said Lewis Clement was unanimously found guilty of the

Crime, to have acted as a dangerous Enemy of our American Cause, and therefore —
Resolved, by the Majority of Votes, that Lewis Clement, as a punishment for his said Crime, shall either pay the Sum of Twenty five pounds N. York Currency within two Months Time from this date under a Bond and Judg[t] with a personal-Bail, or shall be sent to the close Confinement in the Goal of Albany for the space of Three Months at his own Costs, according to the Resolve of our provincial Congress in this case provided. —
Resolved unanimously, and it is hereby Ordered, that the proceedings of the Tryal and Determination of said Lewis Clement shall be kept a Secret, and not revealed to any Body —

The prisoner Lewis Clement doth choose the confinement and refused to pay a single copper.

The prisoner Peter Bown appeared before this Board, and by the affidavits here aforement[d] and also by the Evidence of Ticonderoga, and by his own Acknowledgement and Sentiments yet Declining from our Association. —

The Majority of Votes found said Peter Bown guilty of the Crime of inimical Acts and Deeds agst the American Cause, and as the prisoner leaving it to the Determination and Breast of this Board, it is —

Resolved by the Majority of Votes, that Peter Bown shall suffer the Same Punishment which is inflicted on Louis Clement above expressed —

The prisoner Peter Bown chooses alike to go to the Goal of Albany —

Resolved, that the proceedings of this Determination and the Voting thereof shall be Kept Secret —

Philip Sheffer of the Mohawks District appeared before this Board accused of several Threatnings and other Misconduct against our American Cause, and for Want of Evidences absent, this Tryal shall be at the next Meeting, for which appearance upon notice he is bound under an Obligation of £100. N. York Currency —

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vide Oblig. page

The abovement^{d} prisoners, Clement and Bown are sent under a Guard of three Constables with a Mittimus to M^{r} W^{m} Pemberton, Keeper of the Goal of Albany. —

Together with a Letter to the Albany Committee concerning his Tryal —

John Marlatt Esq[r] having been of our Delegates at the provincial Congress, and now returned therefrom, delivered to this Committee, his Bill of Service, amounting to 87 days a 12/ £52.4–0. and desired the payment in part at present, as he alledges, to have taken money upon Interest for his Expences, and the payment of which is already called for.

Resolved, that the payment of this Bill shall be considered in our next Meeting —

Resolved by majority of Votes, that M[r] John Moore, a Member of the Committee for Conajohary District shall represent our County as Delegate in the provincial Congress at N. York, instead of John Marlatt Esq[r] returned. —

And it is the Opinion of this Board, that one Delegate would suffise, as the Expenses for two would be too burthensome for our small County, which was Recommended to the provincial Congress in our address of the said new chosen Delegate —

Uriel Comes, Constable, delivers his account of Services for and by Orders of the Committee. —

Upon a Letter of Cap[t] Abner French of Warrensborough [135] with Complaints against the Committee —

Ordered and sent to him an Answer vide Letter page that he shall appear at the limited Meeting on the 26[th] of October next, to assert and prove his Complaints and Accusations before this Board then sitting.

David Cox, a Member for Conajohary Dist[t] desireth his Discharge, which was granted —

vide Discharge page

Resolved & Ordered, that the next Meeting shall be held on the 26[th] of October next at the house of Gose Van Alstyne, if no particular & needful Business shall not require a Sooner Meeting —

XXVII. MEETING —

of the County Committee on the 26[th] Octo[r] 1775. at the house of Gose Van Alstyne —

Members present:

Mes[r]. Nich[s] Herkimer chair[n]
John Eisenlord Clk

Mohawk's	*Palatine*
Mes[rs] John Marlatt	Mes[rs] Anthony V. Fechten
Volkert Vedder	John Frey
Adam Fonda	Isaac Paris

JAIL AT JOHNSTOWN

John Bliven
James Mc.Master

Conajohary
Ebenezer Cox
Samuel Clyde
Samuel Campbell
Wm Seeber

Germn flatts
George Eckert
Harms V. Slyck
Andw Reber
Wm Fox
John Js Clock
Christian Nelles
Jacob Clock

Duncan Mc Dougall

Resolved, that the Tryal of Philip Sheffer, as he was not noticed of this our present Meeting to appear, shall be adjourned to the next Meeting —

Resolved, that the agreement and Settlement of Major-Bliven as Representative in the Case agst the new Chosen Committee for Palatine Dist shall stand, and the two new Members agreed upon; viz:

Charles Gordon and Lawrence Zimmermann shall be accepted —

Resolved, that upon the Complaint of Capt Jacob Seeber in Conajohary District for Disobedience by Several privates of his Company shewn to his Orders for Appearance under arms to exercise, it shall be expedied an Order from our Committee to the said Capt Seeber, to fine the disobedients immediately in conformity to the Articles of our provincial Congress therefor

provided, and also prosecute the payment thereof accordingly —

Resolved, that alike Orders are given to Captains Clyde and Eisenlord —

Resolved p^{r} Majority, that the Days Wages of one of our Delegates to the provincial Congress shall be Eight Shillings N. York Currency p^{r} Day and no more —

And that their account shall be paid by the first raising Taxes for our County's Expences; and also that Interest shall be paid to our late Delegate, John Marlatt Esq^{r} for a part of his account amounting to £30. from the 13th of June last, untill the said principal be paid. —

By Examination of Cap^{t} French's Letter of Warrensborough to this Committee dated Augst 23^{d} a.c. it was found out by the Confession of Cap^{t} French himself, that Mess^{rs} W^{m} Schuyler and Abraham Van Horne, Members of our Committee informed him of the particular Reflections made in a certain Meeting of our Committee, that a man, who has no Sufficient Estate, even if he would give Bail, be not worthy of a Commission in the Military Service, which was intended to be applied upon him, as such a one understood. — Therefore it is

Resolved, that the said Wm Schuyler and Abraham V. Horne shall render Reason Wherefore to the Committee at our next Meeting —

Resolved, that the absent Members at this Meeting, having got Notice at our Meeting of Augst 26th last past, Shall pay upon Notice to our next Meeting their fines a 20/ each, according to our Resolve in the aforesd meeting subscribed by each Member — Vizt —

{*Absentees of this Meeting*}

Mohawk's

Abraham V. Horne
Fredk Visher
Abraham Yates
Sampson Simons
Wm Schuyler

Palatine

Peter Waggoner
Daniel McDougall

King'sland

George Herkimer resigned
Michl Ittig
August. Hess
Fredk Arendorf
George Wents
Fredk Fox
John Frank

Conajoh?

John Pickert
Cunrd Pickert
Henry Heints

G. flatts

Wm Petry
Fredk Hellmer
John Demooth
Jacob R. Weaver
Henry Harter

Moved & Resolved, unanimously, that three Members of our Committee shall be sent to Sr John Johnson, to ask him, whether he will allow, that his Inhabitants of John'stown & King'sborough shall form themselves into Companies according to the Regulations of our Continental Congress to the Defence of our Country's Cause; — And Whether he would

be ready himself to give his personal assistance to the same purpose. And whether he pretends a Prerogative to our County Courthouse and Goal, and would hinder or interrupt the Committee, to make use of the same publick houses to our Want and Service in the Common Cause—

By the Majority of Votes, Mefs^{rs}. Ebenezer Cox, M^{c}.Master and John J^{s}. Clock, are chosen and appointed to go on the purpose abovement^{d}.—

A Letter was sent with afores^{d}. Messengers, containing the abovement^{d}. Questions, and a Copy Kept in our Record—

Adjourned till to Morrow Morning—

XXVIII. MEETING—

Continued according to adjournment on the 27th. of October 1775. at the same house—

The same Members present, as yesterday: Moved & Resolved, That a Letter should be sent to the Sachems of the Conajohary Castle in Regard to the Return and present abiding of some Indians in their Castle from Canada, who have acted inimically against us, and

fought against our united forces near the Fort S[t] John,[136] not to give Shelter to such real Enemies among 'em —

Resolved & Ordered, that Cap[t] French of the Mohawk District shall prosecute his disobedients for nonappearance under arms to exercise, according to Resolves of the provincial Congress therefore provided —

Resolved and expedied an Order alike to Cap[t] Samuel Clyde of Cherry Valley, and to Cap[t] John Eisenlord in N. Germantown —

Resolved, that each Battallion of Militia shall meet on Saturday the 4[th] Novemb[r] next at convenient places respectively, appointed by each Colonel, to choose the Minute Men, and to form them into Companies, and also to procure the Officers chosen by them, according to the Resolves of the provincial Congress, and a Return to be made to the chairman immediately after proceedings —

The Deputies, Mes[rs] Ebenezer Cox, James M[c] Master and John J[s] Clock, Returned from their Message to Sir John Johnson, and upon our Questions sent to him in a Letter, they brought by Word and Mouth the following answer back to the Committee — Viz[t]

1.) By perusing our Letter S[t] John replied, that he thinks our Requests very unreasonable, as he never had denied the Use either of the Courthouse or Goal to any Body, nor would yet deny it, for the Use, where these houses have been built for, but he looks upon, that the Courthouse & Goal be his property, till he is paid £700. — which being out of his pocket for the Building of the same —

2.) In Regard of embodying his Tenants into Companies, he never did forbid them, neither should do it as they may use their pleasure, but we might save ourselves the Trouble, he being sure, that they would not —

3.) Concerning himself, he said that before he would sign any Association, or would lift up his hand against his King, he would rather suffer, that his head shall be cut off. —

And further he replied, that if we would make any unlawful Use of the Goal, he would oppose it. Also he mentions, that there have many unfair Means been used for signing the Association and uniting the people, for he was informed by credible Gentlemen in N. York, that they were obliged to unite, otherwise they could not live there, And that he was also

informed by good Authority, that likewise two thirds of the Conajohary and German flatts people have been forced to sign —

And by his Opinion the Boston people are open Rebells, and the other Colonies have joined them —

Moved & Resolved by the Majority of Votes, that our prisoners Lewis Clement and Peter Bown sentenced to be confined in Goal for 3. months Imprisonment which being Returned from Alb^y Committee, shall be sent to our County Goal at John'stown, to find out, whether S^r John shall judge this Use of our County Goal for unlawful, and will oppose the same —

Ordered, therefore, that a party of Eight men under the Command of Cap^t Jacob Seeber shall be sent immediately, to take the said prisoners and convey them to the said Goal, and if the Goaler should refuse to receive them in his Custody and close Confinement for the Time limited, or be opposed by S^r John then the said party shall bring them to the house of our voted and elected new High Sheriff, John Frey Esq^r who shall immediately inform thereof our Chairman for further Directions —

Continued the same Day at the House of William Seeber —

Members present:

Mefsrs Nicholas Herkheimer Chairmn. John Eisenlord Clk.
William Seeber; Jacob Clock; John Frey; Harms Van Slyck; Christian Nelles; John Js Clock & Duncan McDougall —

Answer & Speech of the Inds of Conajohary Castle upon our Letter sent to them this Day: —

The Sachems as well as the Warriors appeared and made their Answer in the following Manner: Vizt

Brothers, We are thankful to You, that you openned Your hearts, and We comprehend to be all true, what you wrote to us.— We live together Gentlemen, and We shall do our Endeavor to answer you upon all the Contents of your Letter, as much as we can Remember thereof —

Brothers, We have not yet forgotten our agreement made in Albany, it is not such a long, time ago. We can remember it yet, altho' we have not put it in Writing, but it is yet in our Memory — We can Remember very well, that there have been 12. Governors, with

THE MOHAWK AT TRIKES HILL

whom we agreed, and we made a levell Road to the 6. Nations, to Boston and to Philadelphia.—

Brothers, We as well, as the Senecas and others of the 6. Nations have been very glad to make that Road; Where we went and shall go, it is all peace and very good. — The Nations have been very glad for the making of that good Road, and it is all peaceable, but we are afraid, you make the first Disturbance on the Seaside, because you are a fighting already. They have made that good Road, but they will not hope, that we should spill blood upon it. —

You said in your Letter, that you cannot keep your young people back, but we think, you are Masters of 'em and could order them. — Some of our young people are now in Canada, and perhaps they are killed there, but if so be, our hearts will not be sore about it. — There are some young people, whom We could persuade to stay, and not to meddle themselves with the fighting of the White people, but some went yet away, and We are glad to see them back again, because they have been debauched to go away —

Brothers, the 6. Nations are now Speaking

about that good Road made and be glad but if they should soon pass that Road, and see some Blood Spilled upon, they would be surprised.—

Brothers, We have made a very strong agreement of Friendship together, and We beg, you will not break it for sake of some wrong done by some, who have been debauched, you will drop it, We hope, at present —

Answer to them:

We replied to them, that if their young people, who have first spilled Blood of our Brothers are come back, and they should repent the same, Such a one should have come to us, and shewed to us, that he be sorry of what was passed, and make promises not to be so in future, but the quest.d Wm Johnson did not do that, as yet, on the Contrary he bragged of his hostile proceedings, and Speaks very boldly against our Cause.

A Letter was sent to the provincial Congress with the Return of 4. Second Majors & 4. Quartermasters to be Commissioned according to Request from said Congress —

vide Letter p.

XXIX. MEETING —

of the County Committee on Monday the 6th November 1775. at the house of Gose Van Alstyne —

Members present:

Messr. { - - - chairman abst for sickness
John Eisenlord Clk }

Mohawk's

Messrs Fredk Visher
Volkert Vedder
Samson Simons
John Marlatt
John Bliven
Abraham V. Horne
James Mc Master

Absentees in this Meeting

Cunard Pickert
Henry Heints
Wm Fox
Anthony V. Vegden
Daniel McDougal

Palatine

Messrs John Frey
Jacob Clock
John Js Clock
Christian Nelles
Conajohy Peter Waggones
Harms V. Slyck
Palatine Andw Reber
George Eker jr
Lawrence Zimmerman

Conajohary

Willm Seeber
Samuel Clyde
Samuel Campbell
(John) Pickert
(Ebenezer) Cox
Augs Hess
Fredk Ahrendorf
George Wents
Fredk Fox
Wm Petry
Fredk Hellmer

G.flatts & King'sland

G. flatts & King's Land

JohnDemooth
Jacob Weaver
Henry Harter
Michel Ittig
John Frank
John Eisenlord

Moved, to vote a Chairman for this Session in the absense of our Chairman, Nicholas Herkheimer Esqr being presently Sick and by the Majority of Votes has got the Chair:

Lt Coll Ebenezer Cox —

Resolved by the Majority of Votes, that agreeable to the Resolve of the provincial Congress dated Octr 10th a. c. the Delegates of each County shall be elected this day we proceed

therefore in Voting of ours after due publick Notice given in each District of our County.

Moved & Resolved, that two Delegates are Sufficient as Representatives for our County —

By the Majority of Votes of the Freeholders of our County this day assembled, are chosen and elected as the said two Delegates for our county. —

Messrs. John Moore & Isaac Paris

But in Case Mr. Paris shall refuse this Service, Mr. Sampson Simons, as the next in Votes, will accept of —

Upon a Letter of the Albany Committee chamber dated Oct. 23d. a. c. concerning their payment for 150. lb of Powder sent up to us pr. Mr. Frederick Visher, a Member of our Committee.

Resolved, to answer, that as soon as the Persons, who have got the Disposal of the sd. powdr shall be returned home, being presently out of the County in the Service of the publick, We shall enquire for their Disposal, and immediately after send the money due to the Committee of Albany —

NB. The Mohawk's Committee kept of this quest[d] Quantity of powder

3. Caggs	c 25. lb	75 lb
Christopher P. Yates Esq[r] Rec[d] 2. Caggs		50 —
And M[r] John Moore Rec[d] pr said Yates 1 Cagg a		25 —
	Total	150—

As the Heads of the Mohawk's applied to John Marlatt Esq[r] in the Name of the Committee that we should discharge Peter Bown and Lewis Clement for their Misbehaviour John (Frey) Esq[r]
Moveth to answer upon in this Manner, that if we do discharge them We would do it upon account of the said Mohawk Indians and upon no other means else —. And in Case the said Mohawks would bring the said Bown & Clement before us, and they then will acknowledge their faults, also promise to behave themselves Brotherlike to the best of our Country's Cause, and no more against it, then We will forgive and discharge them in full —

This Motion carried the Majority of Votes in the Affirmative, and such an answer expedied —

Vide Letter page

Whereas We have been informed of a credible person, who came in a Battoe from Oswego,

that Co^{l} Butler[137] with a party of three or four more of our former Residents in our County are on their Journey to return to their home among us, and in particular said Butler desired the above ment^{d} Battoeman, to take him along in his Battoe, but was refused. — Upon this dangerous intended Return of our proved Enemies, who left the County to serve against us in a hostile Manner, as much as it did lie in their power, and did actually not only fight themselves agst our Forces near S^{t} John's, but also tried their best to set up the Savages against us. —

John Frey Esq^{r} Moved, that We should immediately order and keep a guard of fifteen Men at the Dwelling house of John Franck in King'sland Dist^{t} and also a Guard at the Carrying place on the Little Falls, to stop the abovement^{d} returning Enemies, and take them prisoner (by Force of Arms if Need Requireth) and keep them in safe Custody, but in the mean While send an express to the Chairman of their proceedings for further Orders and Regulations

Also that a Spyguard of two or three Men be sent up above the Flatts, who shall upon Sight of such Enemies as afores^{d} immediately

and with all speed return to the Flatts to inform thereof either the officer commanding the guard at Frank's, or any other Militia Officer or Committee Member next & first meeting in Return —

This Motion is approved by Majority of Votes, and immediate Orders expedied on that purpose to Capt. George Herkimer and Capt. John Eisenlord —

Mr. Ebenezer Cox, the present Chairman, moved further on the point aforementd. that this guard be ordered at Frank's house and at the little Falls to stop any person by Land or Water going up or down, whom they think proper and especially suspicious to them, and keep them in safe Custody, until they give proper Satisfaction —

This Motion is approved also unanimously, and inserted in the abovementd. orders —

Mr. John Eisenlord moved, that in Regard to the Landlord of our Meetinghouse, Gose Van Alstyne, as he has Business sometimes to go out and in our Chamber of Convention, the Oath of Secrecy should be taken of him — Approved unanimously of this Motion, and

accordingly the Said Gose Van Alstyne was sworn immediately —

Henry Zimmerman lays before the Committee, that he with a certain Number of his Neighbors living in Palatine Dist: on the North side of the Mohawk River do not choose to train under a Captain in Conajohary District on the southside of the Mohawk River, but desire to be inlisted in the Company being nearest to their habitations on their side of that River. And brings also for further Reason, that he with his said Neighbors did never choose the officers on the other side of the River, whereby they shall be commanded.

Whereas the other party defend: is not present, which pretends to prove the Consent of the plaintiffs with the Officers chosen on the Southside of the Mohawk River whereby they have been commanded, it is —
Resolved p: Majority, that this Case shall be adjourned to the (next) Meeting, to hear both parties for the Decision and Difference —

adjourned till to-morrow

QUEEN ANNE'S CHAPEL PARSONAGE (1712) AT FORT HUNTER

XXX. MEETING —

of the County Committee continued to adjournment on Tuesday the 7th Novr 1775. at the same house —

Samuel Campbell moveth, that upon Request of the Oneida Inds it should be expedied an authority to them, to stop Letters or any other packets suspicious to the prejudice of our Country's Cause, and the Carriers of such, being without a pass of our or any other Committee of our Province —

This Motion was in the Negative pr Majority of Votes, as those Indn affairs belong to the agents in Albany —

Col Jacob Clock relates, what dangerous threatenings & other scandalous Expressions the Returned Enemy, Wm Johnson[138] did utter at his, said Clock's house last Monday night, in the absense of him, Col Clock aforesd —

He came there from John's town accoutred with two pistols, a gun and a Broadsword on his side, Saying: (" I am a King's Man, who dare say anything against it; I have Killed so many Yankies at Fort St John's with this Sword of my Father, they are no Soldiers at all. I kill'd and scalp'd, and kick-d their arses,

and the d . . . d Committee here have gone too far already, I will shew them better, and will cut some of their heads off by and by; I only pity the wives and children, for I shall come with 500. Men, which I have ready, to cut off the whole River and burn their houses this Fall yet:) besides other villanous Challenges. — Further he said that he was sorry, having not stopped at Philip Fox's by that d . . . d Son of a pitch M^{c}Dougall, for he heard of his people, that he set up the Scotch people against them —

M^{r} John Eisenlord moved, that of this dangerous Behaviour of said W^{m} Johnson the agents in Indian affairs should be acquainted, to prevent the Execution of his Threatenings or other ill Consequence of his Conduct, if possible —

Voted for this Motion in the affirmative p^{r} Majority —

Moved & Resolved that advertisements shall be put on, to call in the accounts agst our Committee, to examine the same at our next Meeting to be held at this house on the 24th of this Inst^{t}

Moved & Resolved, that if in Case Co^{l} Butler

with his Company or some of them should be taken up and found guilty, they should be sent to the provincial Congress as Suspicious Enemies to our Country and its Liberties, to be then and there examined & tried —

Moved by Mr James McMaster, that as John Hare, the Jail-keeper Robert Picken and George Cook did oppose Capt Jacob W. Seeber by delivering Peter Bown, a prisoner of our Committee to goal for 3 Months Imprisonment, and have offered to Shoot said Seeber, as it is said, they the Said Hare, Picken & Cook shall be taken prisoner, and be confined afterwards to a prison of our Choice —

Voted therefore in the Negative —

Resolved, that the Battallion of Col Jacob Clock shall extend no farther than the house of Jacob Staring on the West Side of the lower Canada Creek in the Royal grant exclusive — And the Battallion of Col Peter Bellinger shall begin and take its Bounds there —

Resolved, that Mr John Eisenlord upon repeated Requests of the united Committees of German flatts and King's land Dists shall be and pass as a Member of their Committee —

Moved, By Capt. Samuel Clyde to a small party of this Committee Concerning transient Men or Sojourners in this County.

Voted & Resolved, by this party, that whatsoever person or persons abiding or sojourning within this County the space of Six Weeks, shall be liable to bear Arms, and do Military Duty under whatsoever Capt. or Company he shall happen to abide at the Said Time of Military Exercise or be culpable to the like fines or punishment of any of the Inhabitants or Freeholders of the place —

XXXI. MEETING —

of the County Committee on Fryday the 24th. of November 1775. at the house of Gose Van Alstyne —

Members present:

Messrs { Nicholas Herkimer Chairn
John Eisenlord Clk }

Mohawks		*Palatine*
Messrs Volkert Vedder		Messrs John Frey
Adam Fonda		Isaac Paris
Samson Simons		Andrw Reber
Abrm V. Horne	*Absentees in this Meeting*	Harmd V. Slyck
John Bliven	Wm Fox—of Palatine	George Eckert
James McMaster	Henry Heints of Conajohy	Peter Waggoner
Wm Schuyler		Jacob Clock
Fredk Visher		Christian Nelles
John Marlatt		John Js Clock
		Lawrce Zimmerman

COMMITTEE OF SAFETY

Conajohary

Ebenezer Cox
Wm Seeber
John Pickert
Samuel Clyde
Samuel Campbell
Cunrad Pickert

K. Land & G. flatts

Augustinus Hess
Fredk Arendorf
Michel Ittig
Fredk Fox
John Frank
George Wents
Duncal McDougall
Wm Petry
Jacob N. Weaver

By a Guard Kept in King's land Dist Capt George Herkimer took prisoners four Suspicious persons as Enemies acted against us in the province of Canada and having been now in their Return to our County — Vizt

James Cameron — Scotchman
John Freil, of King'sborough —
John Picken, of John'stown
George Crawford of Butlerbury
} of Tryon County

James Cameron was examined under Oath and Saith, that he coming lately from Scotland, and being in his Journey to see his Brother, was last May stopped by Col Guy Johnson at his house in the King's Road, and persuaded to stay with him at 3/— pr Day — also was taken along in that Manner and at the Same pay, as a Battoeman, to Oswego by said Guy — There he would absolutely return back to this Country, but Was then stopped by force, and ordered

by said Guy to do further Service as a Battoeman to Montreal with him, the said Johnson: When arrived at Montreal, Guy Johnson pr himself and by other Mefsengers pursued him often to enlist him in the King's Service, which he always refused and did never accept of, but worked at Montreal pr Month by a Citizen, and hearing of the Return of Mr John Robinson, Merchr of Schenectady, he endeavored to go also back with him to the County of Tryon, to get his Livelyhood there about, and agreed wth said Robinson to wait on him in his Journey home at 3/ pr day, altho' he had an offer of Col John Butler to go with him at 4/ pr day but he really always disliked the Company and Engagemt of Col Johnson & his party — He the Deponent further declareth on Oath that he is resolved still, never to take up arms against the Country's Cause, nor do anything consequential in the favor of the Country's Enemies, but rather be always ready to defend the American Liberty with the Friends of our Country, and to obey the Orders and Regulations therefore provided and to be further Issued and further saith not —

his
James + Cameron
mark

As by the Examination of this James Cameron no Misbehaviour agst. our Cause is found and he appearing unguilty of any Fact against our Constitution, it is unanimously
Resolved, That the said James Cameron shall be discharged, and upon his Request also granted a pass, behaving himself as a Friend to American Liberty, agreeable to his Oath taken in Manner above described —

John Freel, one of the prisoners above mentd. was examined, and saith on Oath, that Col. Guy Johnson some time in April last past required him, to go along with him to help John Thompson, to make some Taylor's Work there, for his family, as he had Business there with the Indians for about three Weeks. Whereupon he the Deponent, as a Man, who must live by his Trade, and in particular has earned a great Deal of that Family, consented and went along, but from thence said Guy persuaded him further till to Oswego, where he the Deponent desired to go back home, but was refused by the said Guy and stopped by force, under Threatnings to flock any one, that would insist upon returning back from Oswego — From thence he was commanded to

go in a Battoe with said Guy and his party to Montreal, where he was on the arrival discharged yet said Guy and others of his party endeavored to engage him in the King's Service, which he refused, and did work upon his Taylor's Trade in the Town of Montreal, until he found an opportunity to return home in a Battoe —

The said Deponent also declareth under his Oath never to take up arms against the American Liberty's Cause but rather to shew himself always ready at any command to defend the said Cause; and further saith not —

his
John + Freel
mark

George Crawford, one of the prisoners above mentd upon Examination declareth under Oath, that Col Butler desired him to come to Col Guy Johnson, who wants to employ him in some Business, which Interest would be more valuable than his Schooling Salary, and upon Reply, that he would not like to loose his School, said Butler answered him, that as his School Year was now expired, he might accept of such service by Guy, being only for a few and then he might return to engage himself to School again for an-

JOHNSON HALL. JOHNSTOWN. BUILT IN 1763

other Year. he should consider the Difference of pay.
The Dep^{t} then went to Co^{l} Guy Johnson and engaged himself to assist him in holding a Congress with the Indians at John Thompson's: But from [139]

Notes to the Text

Tryon County

[1] Counties were erected in the colony of New York for the first time in 1683 and were twelve in number, Albany, Cornwall, Dukes, Dutchess, Kings, New York, Orange, Queens, Richmond, Suffolk, Ulster, and Westchester. *Note 1*

The county of Cornwall consisted of what was known as Pemaquid, and Dukes was made up of Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard. Patents from the king were queer affairs in those days, and that of the Duke of York was no exception. Each one of these patents reached out vaguely into an unmapped and unsurveyed wilderness. But the New York patent while uncertain enough, did not equal in absurdity those of Massachusetts, Connecticut, and some others whose bounds on the west were the "South Sea."

The Mohawk country was in Albany County, and as the settlements extended further and further it became necessary, for the convenience of the people, to divide that county.

This was done in 1772, and the new county named Tryon, taken from Albany County had the following bounds:

Beginning at the Indian Village of St. Regis on the St. Lawrence, the east boundary ran in a straight line to the west bounds of the township of Schenectady, thence in a general southwesterly direction to

Lake Ut-sy-an-tha, a small body of water which is the source of the Mohawk branch of the Delaware River, and down the same to the southeast bounds of the present County of Broome, thence northwest in nearly a straight course to Fort Bull between Rome and Oneida Lake.

Note for Tryon Co.

This western boundary of Tryon County was the "Old Treaty Line" of 1768. West of this line was the "Six Nations Indian Country;" for while the white man wanted it badly enough, and both the colonies of New York and Massachusetts claimed it, still neither a settler nor the colonial government itself had the temerity to make any overt claim in hostility to the native owners.

During the War of Independence the name of Tryon had become offensive, and so Tryon County became Montgomery County by an act of the Legislature in 1784. The bounds of the county and the bounds and names of the five districts into which it was subdivided were not, however, changed by that act. Montgomery County, like its predecessor, Tryon County, had for its western boundary the "Old Treaty Line" of 1768.

In 1788 by another act of the legislature Montgomery County was "enlarged" so as to take in the "Country of the Six Nations," who had forfeited the rights they had when the treaty of 1768 was made.

There was, however, a violent controversy over this territory west of the treaty line, for Massachusetts claimed it as well as New York, and the quarrel was only settled by a compromise, New York giving to

Massachusetts all the land from Seneca Lake to Lake Erie.

Palatine District

[2] This division of the County of Tryon was on the north side of the Mohawk River, between Anthony's Nose, or "Nose Hill," on the east and Little Falls on the west; to the north, it stretched away indefinitely into the Adirondack wilderness, the St. Lawrence probably being its northern boundary. It was settled — where it was settled at all — chiefly by German Palatines, a few Hollanders, and some few of other nationalities.

Adam Loucks

[3] This man was one of the Palatines, and his inn, at which the first meeting of the Committee was held, stood about a mile north of the Stone Arabia churches. He is buried in the churchyard on the glebe land of the Dutch Reformed church. He was a justice of the peace and a man of prominence.

Stone Arabia

[4] In 1723 a tract of land in the district afterward known as Palatine was bought of the Mohawk Indians, by certain German Palatines; the purchase was confirmed by letters patent from the king. It contained 12,700 acres of land, and, for some unknown reason, was named Stone Arabia.

At this time, after a settlement of fifty years, it was one of the most flourishing and prosperous sections of Tryon County. The land was of surpassing fertility, and the farms and buildings, horses and cattle, gave evidence of thrift, peace, and contentment.

There were two churches standing in the little hamlet, and on the glebe land was the churchyard. There were fewer Tories than in the other districts;

the people had suffered too much in their own land on the Rhine, from the offensive acts of kings, to bear with any patience those of the English rulers, and so the people were nearly all ardent and outspoken patriots.

They suffered equally in the war with the other sections of Tryon County. Lurking Indians and Tories constantly harassed them in the fields, scalping and bearing away many prisoners. Finally, in the great raid of October, 1780, the whole settlement was laid waste; the houses, barns, and churches burned, the people killed and dispersed, and a ruin and desolation were left.

It was at this time that the action known as the Battle of Stone Arabia was fought, in which Col. John Brown and about fifty of his command were killed.

Port of Boston

[5] The port of Boston was closed May 10, 1774.

Five Delegates

[6] The five delegates chosen by New York to the First Continental Congress were John Jay, Philip Livingston, John Alsop, Isaac Low, and James Duane.

Christopher P. Yates

[7] Christopher P. Yates was one of the best educated and most active men of the Committee. He was a lawyer of ability and deeply interested in the Patriot cause. He was a Deputy to the first and third Provincial Congresses. Member of Assembly in 1774–85–88, 1800, 1801, and 1802. He was the first county clerk of Montgomery County, remaining in office from 1777 to 1800. He was Surrogate from 1778 to 1787. A member of the convention that ratified the Federal Constitution; he was a Regent of the University, and on the first

board. In 1774 he held a captain's commission, and was commissary of General Herkimer's brigade. In 1776 he was a major in the First New York. He went as a volunteer to Canada with General Montgomery, as well as raising a company of Rangers during the war. He was born March 29, 1750, and died Jan. 20, 1815. He is buried on his old farm, his grave neglected and uncared for.

Isaac Paris

[8] A merchant or trader living in Stone Arabia. His house stood on what is now the Gramps farm. He was a native of Alsace, and came to America in 1737. Was an active member of the Committee of Safety, a delegate to the second, third, and fourth Provincial Congresses, a member of the first State Senate. He was not destined, however, to serve in that body, for he had gone as a volunteer with General Herkimer to Oriskany, where it was his misfortune to be taken prisoner. The Indians took him from the guard and tortured him to death in sight of the other prisoners and the British officers. His son Peter was also killed in the same battle. A younger son in the after years married a sister of Washington Irving.

Major John Frey

[9] The Frey family of Palatine came from Zurich, Switzerland, in 1688, and in 1689 bought a tract of land of the Mohawk Indians, on which they have continued to reside ever since. Major John Frey was the grandson of the first settler. He was born the 27th of April, 1740, and died the 19th of April, 1833. He was a prime mover in inaugurating the Committee of Safety, and was its chairman sev-

eral times. His life was active, useful, and full of stirring incidents. His wife was a niece of General Herkimer, and Christopher P. Yates was his brother-in-law. He was educated at the Rev. Samuel Dunlop's school in Cherry Valley.

It is only possible to enumerate in a short note the services, both civil and military, that he rendered to his native County of Tryon.

He was a lieutenant in the militia, and went with Sir William Johnson to Niagara in 1759. Was a justice of the peace before 1760; Justice of Sessions at the first court held at Johnstown; commissioned a captain by the Provincial Congress, June 28, 1775. He was the first sheriff elected in the county after the deposition of the Tory, White, and held the office from 1775 to 1777. Was one of the Excise Commissioners of the county. Was brigade major in General TenBroeck's Albany regiment July 15, 1775, to Jan. 1776; brigade major under General Herkimer from Aug. 6, 1777, — was at Oriskany holding that rank when he was wounded and taken prisoner to Canada. He remained in Canada as a prisoner until Oct. 28, 1778. From 1782 onward until 1802, he continuously served either in the Senate or the Assembly. He was a member of the Council of Appointment, a member of the convention that ratified the Federal Constitution, one of the promoters of Union College, a member of the Inland Lock and Navigation Company, and one of the original members of St. Patrick's Lodge, F. A. M., founded at Johnstown by Sir William Johnson.

HOUSE OF GENERAL HERKIMER. DANUBE

Andrew Finck

[10] This man's grandfather was one of the patentees of the Stone Arabia tract, and for three generations the family had been prominent and influential.

The Andrew Finck here mentioned was an active and important member of the Committee of Safety, his name appearing in many of the meetings.

He was a member of Assembly in 1782, and Senator from 1784 to 1787. He was a lieutenant in the Second Regiment, N. Y., then promoted to a captaincy. He was in the Saratoga battles Sept. 7 and 9, 1777, and present at the surrender of Burgoyne. In 1779 he was with his regiment at Fort Stanwix, and assisted the Sullivan expedition in destroying the Onondaga villages. In 1780 he was on the Hudson, and brigade major of General Clinton's brigade. On Jan. 1, 1781, he retired from the Continental army and returned to Stone Arabia.

The Mohawk Valley was in sad straits at this time, for, as Colonel Willet wrote to Washington, "Formerly the militia numbered 2,500, now there are barely 800 capable of bearing arms."

It was not possible for an officer of the recognized ability of Major Finck, and with his talent for organizing, recruiting, and drilling, to remain at home; therefore he returned to the service and remained to the end of the war.

2d Meeting

Andrew Reber

[11] He was one of the patentees of the Harrison patent and contributed £100 towards the building of the old Palatine church. His house was opposite the present village of Fort Plain. He was a private in the Second Regiment Tryon County militia.

Peter Waggoner

[12] This family came from Hesse Darmstadt in 1709. The name is spelled in various ways, but Wagner is the present spelling. Webster Wagner, State Senator and inventor of the sleeping-car, is one of the descendants of the original Johan Peter Waggoner.

Peter Waggoner, the member of the Committee of Safety was lieutenant-colonel of the Second Regiment Tryon County militia and an active and efficient officer. He took part in the battle of Oriskany, and three of his sons likewise. He was one of the Harrison patentees, and contributed £100 towards the Palatine church. The old stone house in which he lived, and which was one of the strongholds in the Revolution, is still standing.

Daniel McDougall

[13] An enlisted man in the Second Regiment Tryon County militia.

Colonel Jacob Klock

[14] He was the colonel of the Second Regiment Tryon County militia, and a good and efficient officer. Some of the Committee meetings were held at his house, called Fort Klock, which is still standing to the east of St. Johnsville. The family had various branches in Tryon County.

George Eacker, Jr.

[15] The Eacker family was a large one at the time of the Revolution, as the original settler had twenty-one children. The name is spelled in a variety of ways. There were in the service in various capacities Eackers, Eakers, Eccors, Ackers, Eckers, &c.

In "New York in the Revolution" there is a private in Colonel Kock's regiment of this name. Jacob Eacker was quartermaster of the same regiment. It

was one of this family who killed Philip Hamilton in a duel in 1801.

Major Harmanus Van Slyck

[16] The first man of this name was granted a patent in 1716, in the Palatine District, by his Indian relatives, his grandmother being a "Right Mohogs Squaw." Whether it was the patentee or his son who was the member of the Committee is uncertain. He was nominated as major in Colonel Klock's regiment, and went to Oriskany with General Herkimer, where he was killed.

Captain Christopher W. Fox

[17] There were twenty-eight men by the name of Fox in the service. The member of the Committee was a captain in the militia and was wounded at Oriskany.

Anthony Van Vechten

[18] Anthony Van Vechten was the adjutant in Colonel Klock's regiment and succeeded Major Frey as sheriff of Tryon County. Abraham Van Vechten, the celebrated lawyer, of Albany, was probably his son, as he began his practice at Palatine, having his office at Major Frey's house.

3rd Meeting

Johnson Family

[19] The "one family" spoken of is of course the Johnson family. Sir William at this time had been dead nearly a year. Col. Guy Johnson, his nephew and son-in-law, was superintendent of Indian affairs and lived at Guy Park. Sir John, at his father's death, had left Mount Johnson, and was living at Johnson Hall; and Daniel Claus, his brother-in-law, occupied Claus Manor, between Guy Park and Mount Johnson. They were by far the most wealthy and influential family in Tryon County and controlled a powerful following of tenants and retainers around

Johnstown and other sections of the Mohawk District, as well as all the Indian tribes.

Mohawk District

[20] The Mohawk District contained all the territory east of a north and south line of Anthony's Nose, or "Nose Hill" as it is now known, on both sides of the Mohawk. The meeting spoken of was the one referred to in Stone's "Life of Brant," at Caughnewaga, where a large number of patriots had assembled to erect a liberty pole. This meeting was broken up by Sir John and Col. Guy Johnson, one of the fiery Whigs, Jacob Sammons, being knocked down and maltreated, thereby bearing the first revolutionary scars in Tryon County.

Johnson Hall

[21] The well known and often described home of Sir William Johnson at Johnstown, the scene of much grandeur and festivity as well as many of the more celebrated Indian councils.

Colonel Johnson

[22] Guy Johnson, of Guy Park, had married his cousin Mary Johnson, daughter of Sir William.

Highlanders

[23] Sir William had induced many Roman Catholic Highlanders to emigrate, and they were settled as tenants on his great estates in Perth, Broadalbin, Galway, Johnstown, and other parts of the Kingsboro tract.

4th Meeting Sunday Meeting

[24] The members of the Committee living in Cherry Valley were Scotch Presbyterians, very strict in their ideas of religious observances, and they wrote a vigorous letter protesting against holding meetings on the Sabbath. It may be found in the "Annals of Tryon County."

Philip W. Fox

[25] This man lived at Palatine Church on the east side of the Garoga Creek.

Letter from the Mohawk Indians

[26] The original letters which are here copied from the "Annals of Tryon county" were among the papers which Judge Wm. W. Campbell obtained from Major John Frey. Judge Campbell was largely indebted to these papers for information in regard to the period of which he wrote. Doubtless the proceedings of the Committee after that time were also included in the "Corn Basketfull" of which he speaks in his preface. It has always been a subject of regret to Major Frey's descendants that these old papers were not returned to the family when Campbell had no further use for them. As it is, they appear to be lost, for a diligent search has failed to show what became of them.

A letter from some Mohawks to the Oneidas translated into English reads as follows:

"Written at Guy Johnson's, May 1775.

"This is your letter, you great ones, or Sachems, Guy Johnson says he will be glad if you get this intelligence, you Oneidas, how it goes with him now, and he is now more certain concerning the intention of the Boston people. Guy Johnson is in great fear of being taken prisoner by the Bostonians. We Mohawks are obliged to watch him constantly. Therefore we send you this intelligence that you shall know it, and Guy Johnson assures himself and depends upon you coming to his assistance, and that you will without fail be of that opinion. He believes not that you will consent to let him suffer. We therefore expect you in a couple of days time. So

much at present. We send, but so far to you Oneidas, but afterward perhaps to all the other nations. We conclude and expect that you will have concern about our ruler, Guy Johnson, because we are all united."

This letter was signed by Joseph Brant and three other chiefs.

5th Meeting Canajoharie

[28] In the division of Tryon County the District of Canajoharie was that section bounded on the north by the Mohawk river and lying between "Nose Hill" and "Fall Hill" and extending to the south line of the county. It included the settlements of Cherry Valley, Charlott river, and others, afterwards known as the "Old England District."

Originally the section known as Canajoharie was on the *north* side of the river, taking its name from the Mohawk village of Can-a-jor-ha. Previous to and during Sir William Johnson's time what was generally known as Canajoharie was an indefinite section lying on the south side of the river around the "Castle of Can-a-jo-har-ees," or "Upper Castle of the Mohawks," at Indian Castle in the town of Danube, and by the time of the Revolution this thickly settled section had extended eastward to "Fort Plain," where there was a church near the fort, which bore on its corporate seal "The Reformed Dutch Church of Canajoharie." The Canajoharie of the Revolution and the modern village of that name should not be confounded.

Kingsland

[29] In 1769 the king gave to Sir William Johnson sixty-six thousand acres of land on the north side of the Mohawk between the East and West Canada

creeks; it was known as the "Royal Grant," or Kingsland, and gave the name to that district of Tryon County.

German Flats

[30] German Flats was the most western district on the south side of the river, and was settled by German Palatines, the patent bearing date 1723. Nine thousand one hundred and eighty-six acres were granted to ninety-two farmers, the land being on both sides of the river. It lies mostly in the present towns of Herkimer and German Flats.

Major William Seeber

[31] There were twelve Seebers in the service; four were killed and two wounded at Oriskany, the William Seeber, member of the Committee, being one of the killed. His house, at which so many of the meetings were held, was on "Sand Hill" not far from the church. The next year the Government erected a palisaded stronghold at this point and named it "Fort Plain." In 1780 and 1781 a block house was built a short distance to the north, and this was in all probability the "Fort Rensselaer" mentioned in the court-martial proceedings against Gen. Robert Van Rensselaer.

General Nicholas Herkimer

[32] Johan Jost Herkimer, the General's father, was one of the patentees of German Flats, but the General had bought a farm to the eastward of "Fall Hill," on which he had built the brick house which is still standing. He was therefore in the Canajoharie District.

The Herkimer family were probably, next to the Johnsons, the most influential family in the valley. John Jost had thirteen children, and they were all

married but one; many of them had larger families, so it can readily be seen that at the time of the Revolution they were connected with nearly every prominent family of the valley. It is not strange, therefore, that the family was divided, and that some were Whigs and some were Tories.

Colonel Ebenezer Cox

[33] Ebenezer Cox was one of the colonels of the First Regiment Tryon County militia. He was killed in the battle of Oriskany and is the one referred to in a song of the period:

> "Brave Herkimer, our General, 's dead
> And Colonel Cox is slain,
> And many more and valiant men
> We ne'er shall see again."

David Cox

[34] David Cox was probably a brother of Colonel Cox; but his name does not appear in any regiment.

John Moore

[35] John Moore was a resident of Cherry Valley. He is said by the historian of that place to have been its most prominent citizen. Disqualified by reason of lameness from being a soldier, he filled many civil positions with ability and honor. He was a delegate from Tryon County to all of the Provincial Congresses; a member of the State Committee of Safety, and of the Provincial Assembly. In the massacre of Cherry Valley his wife and three daughters were among the prisoners taken to Canada. Moore himself was absent from home at the time.

John Pickert

[36] There was a John Pickert, an ensign in the First Regiment Tryon County, and a John Pickard, who was quartermaster of the same regiment.

THE MOHAWK AT LITTLE FALLS

[37] Concerning Edward Wall, of the German Flats District, little is known. His name appears and he seems to have been an active member. *Edward Wall*

[38] Dr. William Petry was surgeon in Col. John Harper's regiment of levies, as well as in several others. He was in the Oriskany fight, and was wounded, but not severely. He dressed General Herkimer's wounds on the battlefield and returned home with the remnant of the troops. He was a member of Assembly in 1782 and 1783. *William Petry*

[39] Jacob Weaver was one of the patentees of the German Flats. He belonged to the Second Regiment Tryon County militia, and took part in the battle of Oriskany. *Jacob Weaver*

[40] Of this member of the committee no information is obtainable. He appears, however, to have been a man of influence. *Duncan McDougall*

[41] Lieut. Marcus Petry was killed at the battle of Oriskany. *Marcus Petry*

[42] There were ten Petrys in the Fourth Regiment Tryon County militia, — John Petry being one of them, who was killed at Oriskany. *John Petry*

[43] George Wents appears as a private in Col. Peter Bellinger's regiment, the Fourth Tryon County militia, and also as second lieutenant. *George Wents*

[44] John Frank also was in the same regiment, and appears to have been a pensioner after the war. *John Frank*

[45] Frederick Fox likewise was in the same regiment. In fact practically the whole of German Flats and Kingsland, regardless of station, wealth, *Frederick Fox*

position, name, or nationality, were embarked heart and soul in the Patriot cause.

Augustinus Hess

[46] Augustinus Hess was in Colonel Bellinger's regiment at Oriskany and was a pensioner after the war.

Michael Ittig

[47] Michael Ittig was a captain in Col. Bellinger's regiment, the Fourth Tryon County militia.

Frederick Ahrendorf

[48] Frederick Ahrendorf was a private in Colonel Bellinger's regiment.

George Herkimer

[49] There were five Herkimers in Colonel Bellinger's regiment. George Herkimer, next to his brother General Nicholas, was the most prominent patriot of that numerous family. He was a captain in the Eighth Company Fourth Battalion Tryon County militia and was at the battle of Oriskany. He was an influential and active member of the Committee of Safety. He had a large family of children, and many Mohawk Valley families are connected with the Herkimers through him.

Speech to the Oneidas

[50] These two speeches are not to be found, as the "Indian page" of the records is lost. Neither are they printed in any of the local histories.

Warner Dygert

[51] Warner Dygert married Magdalena, sister of General Herkimer, and General Herkimer's first wife was Dygert's sister. He was a prominent patriot and a member of the Committee of Safety. He kept a tavern at the foot of the "Fall Hill," where he was killed by an Indian in 1780 and one of his sons at the same time taken prisoner. There were twelve Dygerts in the service.

6th Meeting

Adam Fonda

[52] There were fifty men of this name in the service; the name was spelled in various ways. In fact

this phonetic and careless way of spelling family names is confusing and misleading in studying the history of the time. Adam Fonda was in Colonel Fisher's regiment, the Third Tryon County. He was also a member of the "Associated Exempts." He was at Oriskany. At the twenty-second meeting of the Committee he was nominated as lieutenant-colonel of Colonel Visscher's regiment.

[53] Colonel Vedder was a prominent officer. He was lieutenant-colonel of the Fifth Albany militia, and then of the Third Tryon County militia. His name appears to be spelled both Veeder and Vedder. There were seventy-five men in the service by the name of Vedder and Veeder.

Lt.-Col. Volkert Vedder

[54] The Sammons family were leading men in the Mohawk District and were bold and outspoken patriots. Sampson Sammons, the member of the Committee, was the father of that Jacob Sammons who bore the first scars in the conflict in the Mohawk Valley, and who, while a prisoner in Canada, kept a journal detailing the horrors and the hardships he endured. Both he and his father took part in the Oriskany Battle, and in 1780 their house was burned by Sir John Johnson in one of the raids of that year. The elder Sammons was an ensign in the Tryon County militia, "Associated Exempts." He was the first tenant of Johnson Hall after Sir John went to Canada.

Sampson Sammons

[55] John Marlatt was a Deputy to the first Provincial Congress, May to November, 1775. A man of that name was a private in Colonel Fisher's

John Marlatt

regiment. It may well have been the committeeman.

Abraham Yates

[56] There is no definite information as to which Abraham Yates this was; there were several of the name in the service. It was a large and influential family in Albany, Schenectady, and in Tryon County.

Colonel Frederick Visscher

[57] Frederick Visscher — or, as it is spelled in "New York in the Revolution," Fisher — was commissioned by Congress as colonel of the Third Regiment, Tryon County militia, and later as colonel of the Third Regiment, "Land Bounty Rights." He was of Holland descent, the family coming to America in 1649.

He was with his regiment at Oriskany, and it was through no fault of his that his men were seized with the panic that has so often been written about. He was a brave and efficient officer and did what he could to rally his frightened men.

In the raid of May 1780, he was scalped and nearly lost his life; two of his brothers were killed, his house burned, and his property stolen. He was one of the judges of the county, the fourth in succession, chosen in 1787 and serving till 1801. His homestead is now owned by Alfred DeGraff, the fifth in descent from Colonel Visscher.

The first "boycott"

[58] This is the first "boycott" on record, at least in this part of the State of New York. It shows how intense and strained the relations were between the Whig and Tory factions, and how rapidly the "inevitable conflict" was approaching.

7th Meeting

[59] There were two colonels in the First Regiment Tryon County militia, according to "New

York in the Revolution," — Campbell, and Ebenezer Cox. The regiment was at Oriskany, and Cox being killed, Colonel Campbell was in command and brought off the regiment, or what was left of it. *Colonel Samuel Campbell*

He was also colonel of a battalion of "Minute Men," presumably a local organization for the protection of Cherry Valley. The family was Scotch-Irish, and came to Cherry Valley with several other in 1741 from New Hampshire.

In the massacre of Cherry Valley, Mrs. Campbell and her four children were among the prisoners, and were not exchanged until 1780. Colonel Campbell died in 1824, aged 86 years. Judge William W. Campbell, the author of the "Annals of Tryon County," was his grandson, and Douglas Campbell, author of "The Puritan in Holland, England, and America," his great-grandson.

[60] Samuel Clyde of Cherry Valley was commissioned lieutenant-colonel of the First Regiment Tryon County militia, but was raised afterward to the rank of colonel. He was a very efficient officer, and rendered valuable aid to the cause throughout the war. He was in command at Fort Plain in 1783, when Washington was there on his way to Fort Stanwix and Otsego Lake. *Colonel Samuel Clyde*

In the massacre of Cherry Valley, Colonel Clyde's whole family escaped by hiding in the woods.

He was in the Assembly in 1777 and 1778 and sheriff in 1785 to 1789.

[61] No information is obtainable in regard to *Thomas Henry*

Thomas Henry. He was probably a Cherry Valley man.

Lieutenant John Pickert

[62] John Pickert was an ensign in the First Regiment Tryon County. (See note 36.)

John Bliven

[63] There was a Major John Bliven killed at Oriskany, but the name does not appear in the official roster of New York soldiers. This indicates that an accurate list has not yet been made of all the men furnished by New York to the Revolutionary armies.

There can be little doubt that the John Bliven killed at Oriskany was the committeeman.

Abraham Van Horn

[64] Abraham Van Horn was the quartermaster of the Third Tryon County militia, and probably a private in the Third Regiment, "Land Bounty Rights." He served in the Assembly in the 1st, 2d, 4th, and 9th sessions, and was sheriff of Montgomery County from 1781 to 1785.

William Schuyler

[65] William Schuyler was an enlisted man in the Third Regiment Tryon County militia, "Land Bounty Rights."

James McMarten

[66] There were two men by the name of James McMarten in Colonel Visscher's regiment, the Third Tryon County militia, — one a lieutenant, the other a private.

Daniel Lane

[67] An enlisted man by the name of Daniel Lane was in Colonel Visscher's regiment.

Frederick Hellmer

[68] Captain Frederick Helmer is among those reported killed at Oriskany. There was a man by this name in Colonel Bellinger's regiment, the Fourth Tryon County militia, and one likewise who survived the war and became a pensioner.

[69] That part of the Mohawk District lying immediately around Johnstown was entirely controlled by the Johnsons.

Part of the Mohawk District

[70] The letter spoken of is as follows:

Letter of Guy Johnson

GUY PARK, May 20, 1775.

GENTLEMEN: — I have lately had repeated accounts that a body of New Englanders or others were to come to seise and carry away my person and attack our family under color of malicious insinuations, that I intended to set the Indians upon the people. Men of sense and character know that my office is of the highest importance to promote peace amongst the Six Nations and prevent their entering into any such disputes. This I effected last year, when they were much vexed about the attack made upon the Shawanese, and I last winter appointed them to meet me this month to receive the answer of the Virginians. All men must allow that if the Indians find their Council fire disturbed, and their Superintendent insulted, they will take a dreadful revenge. It is therefore the duty of all people to prevent this, and to satisfy any who may have been imposed on, that their suspicions and the allegation they have collected against me, are false and inconsistent with my character, and office. I recommend this to you as highly necessary at this time, as my regard for the interest of the country, and self preservation has obliged me to fortify my house and keep men armed for my defence, till these idle and ridiculous reports are removed.

You may lay this letter before such as are interested in these matters.

I am Gentlemen
Your Humble Servant
G. JOHNSON.

To the Magistrates
and others of Palatine,
Canajoharie and the
Upper Districts.

Letter of Guy Johnson

At the same time he wrote to the authorities of Albany and Schenectady. In the Minutes of the Committee of Safety of the latter place, the receipt of this letter is acknowledged. It is of about the same purport as the other, and can be found in Stone's "Life of Brant," page 67. He was probably warranted in his fear of capture, for notwithstanding his denials, he was secretly using all of his persuasion to induce the Indians to espouse the cause of the King. The Council spoken of in the letter met at Guy Park on the 25th of May, 1775, but it was sparsely attended, and so Johnson appointed another to meet in the upper part of county, and it was ostensibly to be present at that council that Johnson left Guy Park and moved up the valley to a Mr. Thompson's on Cosby's Manor, above the German Flats. His real intentions, however, were evident, for he took his whole family and a great retinue with him.

Guy Johnson letter from Cosby's Manor

[71] The answer to this letter of the Committee can be found in Stone's "Life of Brant," page 74, Vol. I, and in the "Annals of Tryon County," page 47. It

is dated Cosby's Manor, June 5, 1775, and is strangely in contrast with the truth, and with Colonel Johnson's actions both before and after the date of the letter. He soon went to Canada with some of the Mohawks, and neither he nor they ever returned to their native valley in peace.

8th Meeting

Indian Council at Cosby's Manor

[72] This "Congress" was not held, and it is evident that there was no intention of holding one; Colonel Johnson's measures were all complete, and he was at this time on his way to Fort Stanwix, Oswego, and Montreal.

Organizing of the Militia Regiments

[73] The general organization of the Tryon County militia took place Aug. 26, 1775. The list as completed may be found in the "Calendar of Revolutionary Papers," Vol. I, and also in Simm's "Frontiersmen of New York," Vol. I, page 530.

9th Meeting

Gose Van Alstyne

[74] Gose, or Gosen, Van Alstyne was a Hollander, — a trader, farmer, innkeeper, and miller. His house, located on what was then known as Scrembling's Kill, now the Canajoharie Creek, was central in its location. It was convenient for all districts, and so it was here that many meetings of the Committee were held. The house still stands, and is a fair sample of the houses of that day. When it was built, probably 1740 or 1750, it was the only house in what is now the village of Canajoharie.

11th Meeting

John Eisenlord

[75] John Eisenlord, a native of Germany, came to Tryon County in 1765. He signs his name as "Secretary" of the Committee, in December, 1776. He was killed at Oriskany. He seems to have been the second major in the Fourth Regiment militia.

There is an obscurity about him, for although he appears in the roster of Oriskany among the killed, there appears a Major John Eisenlord among the pensioners, in "New York in the Revolution."

12th Meeting

Rudolph Shoemaker

[76] Rudolph Shoemaker was one of the patentees of the German Flats. At this time he was an old man. He had three children: Han Yost, who was the first major in the German Flats Regiment; Rudolph, Jr., a captain in the same regiment, and who was at Oriskany, though but a mere boy of fifteen; and Anna Gertrude, who married, first, Lieutenant Mathew Wormuth, who was killed by Brant near Cherry Valley; and, second, Major John Frey, after he returned from imprisonment in Canada. Rudolph Shoemaker, Senior., married Gertrude Herkimer, a sister of General Nicholas Herkimer. There were twelve Shoemakers in the service.

Jost Herkimer, Jr.

[77] This Jost Herkimer, Jr., must be John Jost, a brother of the General, and if so, after this a Tory, who went to Canada, and lost his property by confiscation.

John Thompson

[78] It is not possible to determine which Thompson this was, there were so many in the service. It is probable, however, that he was the Mr. Thompson who lived on Cosby's Manor.

13th Meeting

Oneida and Tuscarora Indians

[79] Why the names of the committeemen present at this important meeting are not given is not known. It was through the influence of the Rev. Samuel Kirkland, missionary to the Oneidas, that the Oneidas and Tuscaroras were prevailed upon not to follow the guidance of Guy Johnson. Congress had resolved to hold a general conference with the Indians

HOUSE OF COLONEL PETER WAGGONER. PALATINE

at Albany, and Kirkland was at this time very active in bringing all the tribes to attend. In the minutes of the Schenectady Committee of Safety, 23d of June, 1775, they say that "the Rev. Sam'l Kirkland, with five Oneida Indians, waited on this board and informed us that they were going to Albany to speak to the Committee there." John Roseboom, one of the Schenectady Committee, was sent to accompany Kirkland to Albany, and on the 27th of June they returned with two of the Albany delegates. These were Turbot Francis and Volkert P. Douw, Commissioners appointed by Congress to attend the Indian council about to be held. Two members of the Schenectady Committee of Safety were chosen to accompany them, Hugh Mitchell and Abraham Oathout. Preliminary to the general council to be held at Albany, this "Meeting Extraordinary" was held at the house of Frederick Bellinger in the German Flats District. Some of the speeches made on this occasion may be found in Stone's "Life of Brant," and Campbell's "Annals of Tryon County," where also the proceedings of the Albany council, held the 23d of August, are recorded. This was the last Indian council ever held in Albany.

Frederick Bellinger (*See Note 116*)

80 There were seven Bellingers in Col. Peter Bellinger's regiment, the Fourth Tryon County militia, Frederick Bellinger being one of them. He was at Oriskany, and taken prisoner to Canada.

William Cunningham

81 William Cunningham was a private in Col. Klock's regiment. Marcus Ittig should probably be Michael Ittig, one of the committeemen.

14th Meeting North Germantown

[82] North Germantown was north of Little Falls, back from the river. (See Simm's "Frontiersmen of New York," Vol. I, page 511.)

[83] Fort Stanwix, originally built in 1758 at great cost, was at this time decayed and almost useless. There were a few settlers in the vicinity. It was the very outpost of civilization, and the settlers realized their danger. The call they made on the Committee of Tryon County for aid was referred by the Committee to the Committee of Schenectady. It was received by them on the 14th of July, as appears in their Record of that date, viz.:

"Received a letter from Christopher P. Yates, Chairman of Tryon County, informing this board of the supposed danger that county was in of being invaded by the Indians, and desiring assistance:

"This board having taken the contents of said letter into consideration, and being unable to afford any assistance,

"Resolved to enclose said letter in one from this Board to the Committee of Albany for their perusal."

This seems to have been the end of it: and it is not strange, for there was no organization as yet, civil or military. It was all excitement and chaos, and little realization as yet of the fearful danger that threatened not only those few settlers at Fort Stanwix, but the whole valley as well.

Names of disaffected persons

[84] The names, as far as we know, have not come down to us, but a perfect list, could it be made, would contain the names of most of the families in Tryon County. There were exceptions, but there were a

very large number of the families divided, disrupted, and permanently estranged by the war.

[85] The Mohawks at this time had but two "Castles," the "Lower Mohawk Castle," at Fort Hunter, and "The Castle of the Can-a-jo-har-ees," or "Upper Castle of the Mohawks," at Indian Castle, in what is now the town of Danube, in Herkimer County. They were known as "Castles" but this was merely a survival from the early days, when their palisaded strongholds were called "Castles" by the white man.

15th Meeting

Canajoharie Castle

This "Canajoharie Castle" was more like a white man's village than an Indian village: the houses were framed buildings, had doors and windows, chimneys and fireplaces, and were comfortably furnished. They had at this time little to eat, for in the summer of 1775 they were kept in a state of unrest by the Johnson family, and by the Committee of Safety; and instead of hunting and fishing, and planting corn and beans, they attended councils. Besides, where in the old days they owned all the valley, and had in store much corn and other things, now the white man owned the land, and doled out "flower, pease, Ind'n Corn, Bread, pork, and money," to these "Konoshioni," to these Men before all others.

"Old Brant" lived here, and his children, Joseph and Molly, and it had been the home of old King Hendrick. The Mohawks were not numerous at this time, and it is evident that but few of them had as yet followed Guy Johnson to Canada.

[86] Peter S. Tygert was a private in Colonel Klock's regiment.

16th Meeting

Peter Tygert

Joseph Brant

[87] It is hardly necessary in these notes to say anything of Joseph Brant; so much has been written of him that it would be a mere repetition. A full blooded Mohawk of the Bear clan, a chief of his tribe, an Iroquois of unusual ability, the brother-in-law of Sir William Johnson, his intercourse with the whites, and his partial education naturally made him a leader of his people. He combined in a large degree the ferocity of the savage with the milder humanities of the better class of white men. He is to be judged, not from a partisan viewpoint, for while in the Mohawk Valley he was execrated, at Brantford, in Canada, where he lies buried, a monument was erected to his memory, lauding his virtues and recounting his noble deeds. That he wrought havoc along the borders of Tryon County there is no question; it was his native way of fighting; neither is there any question but he was better than those painted white men, natives also of the valley, who emulated their Indian allies in all their fiendish deeds.

Walter Butler

[88] Walter Butler! what shall be said of this man? his name and his deeds are as well known as are those of Joseph Brant. Son of the man who organized "Butler's Rangers," the companion of Sir John and Col. Guy Johnson, he out-Heroded Herod in his cruelty, and in his persistent animosity to his old neighbors in Tryon County.

Fort Hunter

[89] Fort Hunter was built in the reign of Queen Anne to protect the Mohawks and the settlements of Schenectady and Albany from the "French of Canada."

It was near the mouth of the Schoharie Creek, where it enters the Mohawk, and close to the lower village of the Mohawk Indians, who for many years had been located on different sites near this point. One of these, Os-se-ru-e-non, is supposed to be the place where the Jesuit missionary, Isaac Jogues, was killed in 1646, and the supposed location is now marked by the shrine at Auriesville.

Inside the fort was a church, and a missionary to preach to the Indians the gospel of Christ, and to teach to their children the catechism.

The fort is gone, many years ago, but the parsonage still stands, built in 1712, and is the oldest house in the valley, west of Schenectady.

Little Falls

[90] This is that remarkable and picturesque fall in the Mohawk River caused by an "uplift" of the granitic rocks. It was known by various names, the "Little Carrying place," to distinguish it from the "Great Carrying place," at Fort Stanwix, between the Mohawk and Wood Creek. It was also called "The Canajoharie Falls," being only a short distance from the Indian village of that name at Indian Castle. The present "Canajoharie Falls," on the creek of that name, was not so called at that time. This stream was then know as "Scrembling's Kill" for several miles from where it entered the Mohawk; then "Bowman's Creek," as it wound its way through the Ames Valley; and from there on to its source, Te-ka-ha-ra-wa, the aboriginal name at an early day for the whole stream.

Expresses

[91] These "Expresses" were either by swift runners or on horseback.

18th Meeting
Major Ten Broeck

[92] There were twenty-three Ten Broecks in the service. There was a Major Samuel Ten Broeck in the Tenth Albany Regiment. He was afterwards in the Assembly for two terms.

John Kayser

[93] The Kaysers, or Keysers, were quite a prominent family in the northern part of the Kingsland District. There was a fortified house to the north of Palatine Bridge called "Fort Keyser."

19th Meeting
John Petry

[94] There was a John Petry in the Fourth Regiment Tryon County militia.

20th Meeting
Caroga Creek

[95] The Garoga, or Caroga, Creek has its head waters in a small lake, about eighteen miles from the Mohawk. It is the first lake of the Adirondacks, going north from this point in the valley. The stream is rapid and picturesque, its channel cut deeply in many places into the Utica slate. On its banks is the site of one of the prehistoric aboriginal villages, and also one of the later period of Mohawk occupation. The stream enters the Mohawk near the old Palatine church.

East Canada Creek

[96] The East Canada Creek is a much larger stream than the Garoga, and has for its sources a large number of beautiful lakes.

On an old map there are numerous streams to which the name "Canada" is applied, but only two now retain the name, the East Canada and the West Canada.

Joseph Maby

[97] Joseph Maby was a private in the First Regiment Tryon County Militia (Land Bounty Rights).

98 There is no information in regard to Henry Heintz, the new member of the Committee. *Henry Heintz*

99 Christian Nellis belonged to a large and influential family of the Palatine District, one of the patentees of the Harrison tract. He lived to the eastward of St. Johnsville, and his house was somewhat fortified and called Fort Nellis. He contributed sixty pounds towards the erection of the old Palatine church. He, or a son of the same name, was an enlisted man in the First Regiment Tryon County militia, and in the Second Regiment "Land Bounty Rights." He was a member of Assembly, sixth session. *Christian Nellis*

100 William Fox, Jr., was a lieutenant in the Second Regiment Tryon County militia. *William Fox, Jr.*

101 John J. Clock was in the service, but little is known of him; it was a numerous family. *John J. Clock*

102 John Demoth was an enlisted man in the Fourth Regiment. It was a numerous German Flats family. *John Demoth*

103 See note 44.

104 Frederick Fox belonged to the Fourth Regiment. In the third session, 1779 and 1780, he was a member of the Assembly from Tryon County. *Frederick Fox*

The twelfth meeting of the Committee was held at his house in the Kingsland District, as mentioned in note 45.

105 The implement of that time called a "sith" was of two kinds. Neither one of them was a scythe such as is used in cutting grass. The "brush sith" was a short curved blade six or eight inches long, attached to a straight handle with a knob or *Sith*

cross piece at the end. It was a very effective tool for cutting brush or thistles.

The other "sith" was used more especially for cutting peas; the blade was two or three feet in length, curved, narrow and slender, attached to a short straight handle. In his left hand the reaper carried a tool for raising up and rolling the peas into bundles; it was a slender piece of ash or hickory, with an iron finger six inches long, fastened at right angles to the handle.

Alexander White

[106] Alexander White was the first sheriff of Tryon County, and held the office from March 16, 1772, to September, 1775. He was an outspoken loyalist, and a bitter partisan. His acts became so obnoxious to the Committee that at the expiration of his commission, they thought it well "to have a free voting for a new sheriff." John Frey was elected, and White took his way to Canada.

It depended of course on results whether this drastic and illegal proceeding was revolution leading to honor, or rebellion leading to disgrace and the gallows.

The Committee knew this, and had pondered it well, and were firmly grounded in the belief that all government was, or ought to be, vested in the people and not in kings, and they were ready to establish this belief at all hazards in America.

John Fonda

[107] John Fonda was a prominent member of this large and patriotic family. There were forty-five Fondas in the service. A man of that name was a tax collector in 1764. The amount levied on the

HOUSE BUILT BY HENRY FREY. 1739. PALATINE

Mohawk Valley in that year was $607.19, and paid to the Commissioners in Albany.

He was in Colonel Visscher's regiment, and also a member of the Tryon County "Associated Exempts."

Sheriff White lived on the site of the present old court house in Fonda, and John Fonda a little to the eastward.

The sequel to the affray about which John Fonda testified before the Committee was, that he was arrested and locked up in the Johnstown jail, hearing of which, many of his Whig friends went there one night and set him at liberty, and at the same time made an attempt to arrest the sheriff. He fired into the crowd, and many shots were exchanged, but he made his escape. He was afterwards captured and imprisoned at Albany. Finally, in 1783 he was banished by the Committee, and sent within the enemy's lines.

Jail

[108] The County jail is the one still standing in the city of Johnstown. It was built by Sir William Johnson, and claimed by Sir John as his private property, but the Committee disallowed the claim.

Assumption of authority by the Committee

[109] The Committee of Safety had by this time assumed all authority in civil and military affairs. The old order of things with them had passed away. There was no more talk of fealty to King George; the lines were drawn; Tories and Whigs; Loyalists and Patriots. As the courts and Judges and officers of the old militia were King's men, the Committee assumed to take their place. It was revolution in

the Mohawk Valley as certainly as what was going on at the same time at Lexington and Concord and Bunker Hill was revolution in Massachusetts, but the world has not heard so much about it. If there was merit in such action, if it was praiseworthy to organize revolution, are not the men of remote Tryon County worthy of as much honor and praise as those men who "fired the shot heard round the world"?

Adam Bellinger

[110] Adam Bellinger was a lieutenant in Col. Clock's regiment, and present at Oriskany. He was probably a grandson of Col. Peter Bellinger, who married Delia Herkimer.

John Smith

[111] As there were two hundred and fifty-nine Smiths in the New York service, it is a little uncertain which Smith this was, but there is reason to think that John Smith here mentioned was a lieutenant in the Fourth Tryon County militia.

Jacob Staring

[112] Jacob Staring was a private in the Second Regiment Tryon County militia.

Sir William Johnson's settlement

[113] This settlement had been begun by Sir William Johnson at some point on the Royal Grant, or Kingsland patent, and was therefore to the north of Little Falls.

Robert Wells

[114] Robert Wells, nominated as major in the Canajoharie militia, was killed in the massacre of Cherry Valley, November 11, 1778, together with his mother, wife, and four children, his brother and sister and three servants. But one of the family, a younger son, at school in Schenectady, escaped.

[115] This Hanyoost Herkheimer, or John Joseph

Herkimer, was the third son of the patentee of the same name. He was born in 1751 and died in 1787. He finally became a Tory, went to Canada, and lost his property by confiscation. *John Joseph Herkimer*

[116] Peter Bellinger, colonel of the Fourth Regiment, Tryon County militia, was born in 1758. He married Delia Herkimer. They had four sons and four daughters, and their descendants are a multitude, connecting very many families in the upper Mohawk Valley. *Colonel Peter Bellinger*

Colonel Bellinger was a most efficient officer and an ardent patriot. He led his regiment at Oriskany. Lieut.-Col. Frederick Bellinger, of the same regiment, was among the prisoners taken to Canada. He and Major John Frey were confined together in the prison at Montreal, and through the kindness of Col. John Butler were furnished with some necessary things, and a little money. There were thirty Bellingers in the service, eight of whom were in the Fourth Regiment.

[117] Hanyoost, or John Joseph, Shoemaker was the son of Rudolph Shoemaker and Gertrude Herkimer, and was born in 1747. Michael Myers Shoemaker is their great-grandson. *Hanyoost Shoemaker*

[118] There was at this time a road on the north side of the river leading from Albany westward; this was known as the "King's Highway;" there was likewise a road on the south side; also roads to Johnstown, to Stone Arabia, to Cherry Valley, and to other remote settlements. Without exception they were bad, leading as they did over high hills to avoid swamps *Road*

and passing through dense forests. They were either filled with boulders or were sloughs of mud.

[119] Major-General Philip Schuyler, on the whole the most commanding figure that New York gave to the Revolution, was of pure Holland blood, the fourth in descent from the founder of the family, who emigrated from Amsterdam to America in 1650.

General Philip Schuyler

Philip Schuyler was now forty-two years old, commissioned by the Continental Congress Major-General of the Northern Department, and was at this time burdened and almost overwhelmed with the difficulties incident to the occupation of Ticonderoga and the expedition to Canada. Added to these was the harassment caused by the jealousy and hatred of New England for all New York things in general, and the Dutch Schuyler in particular. At this juncture, therefore, this request of the Tryon County Committee of Safety must have come as an added anxiety. The "Memorial" nevertheless, shows the necessities of the situation, and that the signers had a more realizing sense of the threatened dangers than any one else outside of the Mohawk Valley.

They were told from different quarters to protect themselves and not call so loudly for outside help. Such advice showed but little understanding of the situation, and came easily from those remote from this exposed frontier, torn as it was by factions. One third of the inhabitants were Tories. The entire country was overshadowed by the influence of the Johnson family, who had the Mohawk Indians at their doors, and all Canada and the cantons of Western

New York standing ready to strike. Besides, all the men and boys between fifteen and sixty were in the ranks, and women and old men alone managed the farms.

Ticonderoga

120 Ticonderoga had been captured by Benedict Arnold and Ethan Allen on the 10th of May.

Advertisement of Yates

121 What this advertisement was is not known, but aside from the irregularity of its issue, the fact is apparent from various letters of the period that there were private jealousies and animosities, even in the Committee, and that even so pronounced a patriot as Yates was not free from suspicion. He was far above the most of them in intellect and education, and was probably opposed to some of the drastic acts of a majority of the Committee which drove many good men into the Tory ranks.

Major Jelles Fonda

122 Jelles or Giles Fonda was a son of Douw Fonda, who came from Schenectady to Caugnewaga (now the eastern part of the village of Fonda) at an early day. The elder Fonda was killed by the Indians.

Jelles Fonda was born in 1727 and died in 1791. He was a captain under Sir William Johnson; a captain, and afterwards a major in Colonel Visscher's regiment; captain of Associated Exempts; was present with his regiment at the battle of Oriskany.

In civil affairs he was Judge of Tryon County, 1784 to 1787, and a State Senator in the 1st, 3d, 4th, 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th sessions, covering a period of fourteen years.

He was one of the early traders, his business ex-

tending far to the west, even to Niagara and Detroit. His trading-post stood on what is now the Montgomery County Fair grounds; but previous to the Revolution he had built a house, mills, ashery, &c., on what was known then as the "Canagara, or "Canajoharie," Creek, since known as the Schenck place, and now the location of the Montgomery County poor-house. These buildings were all burned in the raid of 1780.

John Vedder

[123] There were several Vedders and Veeders in the service by the name of John, and it is not possible to tell which of these the witness was.

William Wallace

[124] William Wallace was a private in the Third Regiment "Land Bounty Rights."

William Johnson — Indian — (See Note 138)

[125] William Johnson the Indian may be the one mentioned in Sir William Johnson's will, and called "Tagawirunte." He was killed at Oriskany, and it was to satisfy his manes that Isaac Paris, one of the Committeemen, was given up to torture and death.

Jacob Seeber

[126] Jacob Seeber was later a captain, and took part in the affair at Oriskany, but if he had any sense of humor, many a strenuous situation must have been relieved when he thought of this episode and the locating of his "Brains" in his "Breast."

Lewis Clement

[127] Lodowick Putman was a private in Colonel Visscher's regiment. Lewis Clement is shown by Putman's testimony to have been a fair sample of those low, vicious, profane wretches who added so much to the horrors of the Indian warfare along the Mohawk. An Indian was bad, but a white man stripped and wearing a waist cloth, stained and

covered with grease and charcoal, was infinitely worse.

Adam Loucks

[128] At this distance of time it seems that such an expression of opinion as that made by Adam Loucks was harmless enough. Any one might have expressed so simple a belief.

Loucks was a patriotic man, but he had reason to be annoyed by the action of the Committee. As to the depositions of Clock and Dr. Petry, these concerned a different class of men, and an injustice that the Committee might well have taken notice of.

Henry W. Nellis

[129] Henry W. Nellis sold the land on which the old Palatine church stands. The family was disrupted by the war, two of his sons being Tories.

24th Meeting
Crownidge Kinkead

[130] Crownidge Kinkead was an enlisted man in the Third Regiment Tryon County militia, and in the "Associated Exempts."

John Collins

[131] There were several men of this name in the service.

Martin J. Van Alstine

[132] There were fifty-three Van Alstines in the service; fifteen being in the First Regiment Tryon County Militia. The name is spelled in various ways. There are a number of Martins, but for some reason Martin J. does not appear in the roster.

25th Meeting
Henrich Harter

[133] There are several Herters and Harters whose names appear in the roster, but none of this name. He appears here for the first time as a member of the Committee.

26th Meeting
Little Abraham

[134] Abraham, or Little Abraham, was a chief at the lower Mohawk Castle, Fort Hunter. He was an able man and a fluent speaker. It would appear from

these proceedings that most of the Mohawks still remained at Fort Hunter and Indian Castle. They may have been sincere in their professions of friendship, but the overpowering influence of Colonel Johnson and Sir John turned the scale, and they all, with scarcely an exception, went to Canada, taking with them a precious heirloom, the silver communion service given by Queen Anne to her "Indian Chapel of the Mohawks" in 1712, and also the Bible, prayer-book, altar cloths, and fine linen napkins.

Captain Abner French

[135] Abner French was a captain in Colonel Wynkoop's Regiment of militia.

Warrensborough, or Warrensbush, was eastward of the mouth of the Schoharie Creek, and was a settlement that had been made by Sir Peter Warren upon the tract which he had bought at this point. It was here that Sir William Johnson came as a young man to take charge of his uncle's estate.

Fort St. John

[136] Fort St. John on the Richlieu river was a stronghold occupied by an English garrison, and in the early fall of 1775 it was invested and taken by General Montgomery. In these engagements the few Mohawks who had gone to Canada with Guy Johnson took part, and it was on this account that the Indians of the upper castle were called upon for an explanation.

29th Meeting

Colonel John Butler

[137] John Butler was the notorious leader of that company of cruel and vindictive Tories known as "Butler's Rangers." A Canadian, evidently a man of position and influence, has arisen to defend the acts

of these men, and this in cold blood after a hundred years!

Butler at this time must have been returning to his home — between Fonda and Johnstown — for consultation, and for the beginning of the organization of his Rangers; that he was successful in enlisting so many young men of prominence in the Valley is a sad commentary on human nature.

Although Butler was active with an irregular force of recruits previous to September, 1776, it was not until that time that he received permission from Sir Guy Carleton "to raise a battalion of rangers to serve with the Indians." There were to be eight companies, each composed of a captain, a lieutenant, three sergeants, three corporals and fifty privates. "Two Companies must understand the Indian language, and be acquainted with their customs and manners of making war." Or in other words two companies of the "Rangers" in particular, must revert to savagery, and take lessons in scalping and in torturing. That they learned their lessons well is testified to by the Indians themselves.

[138] William and Peter Johnson, two half-breed sons of Sir William, belonged to Butler's rangers. The language William used is not choice, but in a verbatim reprint it cannot be eliminated. *30th Meeting* *William Johnson*

[139] A few pages of the "Minutes" are lost, and the record comes to an abrupt close; it probably contained the proceedings of the Committee for the balance of the year 1775. That they continued to meet in 1776 is gathered from fragmentary refer- *31st Meeting*

ences in local histories, where names appear as members, which are not on record here; they may even have continued on into the early summer of 1777; but certainly the 6th of August of that year ended the labors of the Committee of Safety of Tryon County, for at Oriskany the most of them died, or were wounded, or were carried away into the prisons of Montreal and Quebec.

Of course in these notes it has only been possible to speak of names and incidents that appear in the Minutes. They form but a small part of the whole history of the struggle in Tryon County. There are hundreds of names just as worthy of mention as those about whom it has been necessary to speak: there is a history yet to be written, full of instances of heroism, courage, devotion to duty, and the cause of liberty, that are comparatively unknown, but still not equalled in any other section of the American Colonies.

It is hoped that this first publication of the "Minutes" in a verbatim copy will be of interest.

For the notes I am indebted to many sources; that they are without error is not to be expected. Such as they are, they will help to elucidate the text of this fragment of the "Minutes of the Committee of Safety of Tryon County."

Index

ABRAHAM, Sachem, 72, 143.
Ahrendorf, Frederick, 13, 18, 26, 30, 48, 70, 71, 81, 89, 99, 120.
Allen, Ethan, 141.
Alsop, John, 108.
Anthony's Nose, 107, 114, 116.
Arnold, Benedict, 141.

BAXTOR, John, 64.
——, Roger, 60, 61, 64, 66, 70.
——, Thomas, 62–66, 70.
Bellinger, Adam, 53, 138.
——, Frederick, 32, 129, 139.
——, Peter, 54, 97, 119, 120, 124, 129, 138, 139.
Bliven, John, 18, 35, 44, 48, 54, 70, 71, 79, 89, 98, 124.
Boston, 1, 2, 3, 85, 87, 108, 115.
Bown, Peter, 58, 68, 72, 74–76, 91, 97.
Brant, Joseph, 41, 116, 128, 131, 132.
Brantford, 132.
Broadalpin, 114.
Brown, Col. John, 108.
"Brush sith," 50, 51, 135.
Butlerbury, 99.
Butler, John, 96, 100, 102, 139, 144, 145.
——, Walter, 41, 132.
Butler's Rangers, 132, 144.

CAMERON, James, 99–101.
Campbell, Douglas, 123.
——, Samuel, 18, 40, 43, 46, 49, 66, 72, 79, 89, 95, 99, 123.
——, William, 115, 123.
Canada Creek, 47, 97, 134.
Conajoharie District, 12, 14–18, 24, 27, 29, 34, 37–40, 42–44, 46, 48, 49, 54, 56, 66, 71, 77–79, 81, 85, 89, 94, 98, 99, 116, 117.
Conajoharie Castle, 38, 82, 131.
—— Falls, 133.
Carleton, Sir Guy, 145.
Carogue Creek, 47, 114, 134.
Cherry Valley, 43, 83, 110, 114, 116, 118, 123, 124, 128, 138, 139.
Claus, Daniel, 57, 113.
Clement, Lewis, 58, 68, 72, 74–76, 85, 91, 142.
Clock, Jacob, 6, 10, 13, 15, 18, 27, 29, 38, 40, 41, 47, 48, 54, 60, 64, 66, 70, 71, 79, 86, 89, 95, 97, 98, 112, 113, 129, 131, 138, 143.
——, John J., 49, 66, 70, 71, 79, 82, 83, 86, 89, 98, 135.
Clyde, Samuel, 18, 43, 46, 49, 54, 70, 71, 79, 80, 83, 89, 98, 99, 123.
Comes, Uriel, 63, 77.
Committee of Safety, 72, 137.
Continental Congress, 3, 5, 9, 11, 108.
Cook, George, 97.
Cosby's Manor, 126, 128.
Counties, 105.
Cox, David, 13, 14, 24, 40, 44, 47, 48, 62, 67, 70, 71, 78, 118.
——, Ebenezer, 13, 18, 27, 34, 38, 40, 43, 45, 46, 48, 54, 66, 70, 71, 79, 82, 83, 89, 93, 99, 118, 123.
Crawford, George, 99, 102.
Cunningham, William, 33, 129.
Cuyler, Abraham, 35.

DEGRAFF, Alfred, 122.
Demooth, John, 49, 54, 72, 81, 89, 135.
Douw, Volkert, 129.
Duane, James, 108.

INDEX

D, E, F, G, H

Dunlap, Rev. Samuel, 110.
Dygert, Warner, 120.

EACKER, Jacob, 112.
East Canada Creek, 134.
Eker, George, 6, 13, 15, 18, 27, 35, 38, 40, 43, 48, 70, 71, 79, 89, 98, 112.
Eisenlord, John, 29, 30, 34, 38, 46, 48, 49, 66, 68, 70, 71, 78, 80, 83, 86, 89, 93, 96–98, 127, 128.

FALL Hill, 15, 44, 116, 120.
Finck, Andrew, 3, 6, 10, 13, 15, 18, 26, 35, 40, 43–45, 111.
Fisher, Frederick, 16, 18, 27, 48, 54, 66, 70, 71, 81, 89, 90, 98, 121, 122, 124, 137, 141, 142.
Fonda, Adam, 16, 18, 24, 27, 35, 43, 44, 48, 54, 56, 70, 71, 78, 98, 120, 121.
——, Douw, 141.
——, Jelles, 55, 58, 141.
——, John, 49–51, 136, 137.
Fort Hunter, 41, 72, 131, 132, 143, 144.
—— Keyser, 134.
—— Klock, 112.
—— Nellis, 135.
—— Plain, 111, 117, 123, 127.
—— Rensselaer, 117.
—— Stanwix, 33, 36, 111, 123, 127, 130, 133.
—— St. John, 83, 95, 144.
Fox, Christopher, 6, 10, 15, 18, 113.
——, Frederick, 13, 18, 24, 30, 49, 81, 89, 99, 119, 135.
——, Philip W., 10, 96, 114.
——, William J., 49, 70, 71, 79, 89, 98, 135.
Francis, Turbot, 129.
Franck, John, 13, 18, 26, 30, 49, 67, 70, 81, 89, 92, 93, 99, 119.
Freel, John, 99, 101, 102.
French, Abner, 78, 80, 83, 144.
Frey, John, 3, 6, 13, 15, 18, 26, 34, 38, 40, 46, 48, 66, 67, 70, 71, 78, 85, 86, 89, 91, 92, 98, 109, 113, 115, 128, 136, 139.

GAROGA Creek. *See* Carogue Creek.
German Flats, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 26, 30, 32, 35, 37, 48, 49, 54, 67, 69, 71, 79, 81, 85, 89, 92, 93, 97, 99, 117, 119, 128, 129, 135.
Goal, 84, 137.
Gordon, Charles, 47, 60, 61, 64, 66, 70, 79.
Guy Park, 22, 113, 114, 126.

HALL, Edward, 32.
Hamilton, Philip, 113.
Hare, John, 97.
Harper, John, 119.
Harter, Henry, 49, 70, 72, 81, 89, 143.
Heints, Henry, 49, 81, 89, 98, 135.
Hellmer, Frederick, 18, 30, 35, 49, 67, 70, 81, 89, 124.
Henry, Thomas, 18, 123.
Herkimer, 117.
——, Delia, 138, 139.
——, George, 13, 18, 30, 36, 49, 67, 70, 81, 93, 99, 109, 110, 113, 119, 120.
——, Gertrude, 128, 139.
——, Hannikel, 61.
——, Johan Jost, 31, 54, 117, 128, 138, 139.
——, Magdalena, 120.
——, Nicholas, 13, 18, 24–30, 32, 66, 70, 71, 78, 86, 89, 98, 117, 120, 128.
Hess, Augustinus, 13, 18, 25, 26, 30, 35, 48, 70, 71, 81, 89, 99, 120.
Holmer, Frederick, 18.
House, Christian, 60, 61, 63, 64, 66.
Hunt, Thomas, 50, 51.

INDEX

Irving, Washington, 109.
Ittig, Michael, 13, 18, 30, 48, 81, 89, 99, 120, 129.
——, Marcus, 33, 129.

Jay, John, 108.
Jogues, Isaac, 133.
Johnson, Guy, 8, 10, 11, 18, 24, 25, 33, 40, 58, 99–103, 113–116, 125–128, 131, 132, 144.
——, Sir John, 81, 83–85, 113, 114, 121, 132, 137, 144.
——, Mary, 114.
——, Mrs. Peggy, 39.
——, Peter, 145.
——, Thariachyako, 39.
——, Sir William, 54, 88, 95, 96, 110, 113, 114, 116, 132, 137, 138, 141, 144.
——, William (Indian), 65, 142, 145.
Johnson Hall, 7, 57, 113, 114, 121.
Johnstown, 8, 59, 61, 81, 85, 95, 99, 110, 113, 114, 125, 137, 139.

Kachanawago, 58.
Kayser, John, 45, 53, 134.
Kingsborough, 81, 99, 114.
King's Highway, 11, 23, 139.
Kingsland District, 12–14, 17, 18, 26, 30, 35, 37, 48, 49, 54, 62, 69, 71, 81, 89, 92, 97, 99, 116, 117, 119, 134, 135, 138.
Kinkead, Crownidge, 68, 143.
Kinton, John, 49.
Kirkland, Samuel, 128, 129.
Klock, Jacob. *See* Clock.

Lane, Daniel, 18, 43, 124.
Letter to Albany Committee, 40.
—— to Congress, 88.
—— to Guy Johnson, 18, 125.
—— to Sir John Johnson, 84.
Little Falls, 41, 42, 92, 93, 107, 130, 133, 138.
Livingston, Philip, 108.
Loucks, Adam, 1, 4, 59, 60, 107, 143.
Low, Isaac, 108.

Maby. *See* Meby.
Marlatt, John, 16, 18, 27, 70, 71, 73, 77, 78, 80, 89, 91, 98, 121.
Massachusetts Bay, 11, 19, 105–107.
McDougall, Daniel, 6, 10, 13, 14, 18, 24, 27, 40, 43, 44, 46, 48, 66, 68, 70, 81, 89, 96, 112.
——, Duncan, 13, 14, 18, 24, 26, 30, 70, 72, 79, 86, 99, 119.
McMarten, James, 124.
McMaster, James, 18, 44, 70, 71, 79, 82, 83, 89, 97, 98.
Meby, Joseph, 47, 134.
Mitchell, Hugh, 129.
Montgomery County, 106, 108, 124, 142.
Montreal, 100–102, 127, 139.
Moore, John, 13, 18, 40, 49, 66, 70, 71, 77, 90, 91, 118.
Mohawk District, 7, 16, 17, 18, 22, 24, 27, 29, 35, 43, 44, 48, 49, 54–56, 66, 68, 69, 71, 74, 76, 78, 81, 83, 89, 98, 105, 111, 114, 120, 121, 125.
Mohawk Indians, 10, 18, 72, 91, 107, 109, 115, 116, 131, 132, 141.
Mohawk River, 18, 94, 106, 107, 114, 116.
Mount Johnson, 113.

Nelles, Christian, 49, 66, 70, 71, 79, 86, 89, 98, 135.
——, Henry, 62, 63, 143.
North Germantown, 35, 47, 53, 83, 130.
Nose Hill. *See* Anthony's Nose.

Old England District, 116.
Old Treaty Line, 106.
Oneida Indians, 10, 13, 18, 32, 36, 95, 115, 116, 120, 128, 129.

I, J, K, L, M, N, O

Oriskany, 109, 110, 112, 113, 117–120, 127–129, 138, 139, 141, 142, 146.

PALATINE District, 1, 4, 6, 10, 12–15, 18, 24, 26, 29, 34, 35, 37–40, 43, 44, 46–49, 54, 55, 60, 62, 63, 65, 66, 71, 78, 79, 81, 89, 94, 98, 107, 109, 113, 114, 135.
Palatine Church, 111, 112, 114, 134, 143.
Paris, Isaac, 3, 6, 10, 13, 15, 17, 26, 34, 38, 44, 46, 66, 70, 71, 78, 90, 98, 109, 142.
——, Peter, 109.
Pemberton, William, 76.
Petry, John, 13, 18, 30, 34, 46, 47, 119, 134.
——, Marcus, 13, 18, 119.
——, William, 13, 17, 25, 30, 49, 61, 62, 81, 89, 99, 119, 143.
Pickard, John, 118.
Picken, John, 99.
——, Robert, 97, 99.
Pickert, Cunrad, 27, 47, 49, 53, 67, 70, 72, 81, 89, 99.
——, George, 124.
——, John, 13, 18, 27, 40, 46, 81, 89, 99, 118, 124.
Provincial Congress, 27, 29, 37, 42, 45, 47, 67, 77, 83, 88, 89, 108–110, 118, 121.
Putman, Lodowick, 58, 59, 142.

QUEEN ANNE'S Chapel, 144.

REBER, Andrew, 6, 10, 13, 18, 26, 35, 38, 40, 43, 46, 48, 66, 70, 71, 79, 89, 98, 111.
Rickert. *See* Prickert.
Robinson, John, 100.
Roseboom, John, 129.

SAMMONS, Jacob, 114, 121.
Schenectady, 14, 32, 37, 40, 45, 74, 100, 105, 122, 126, 129, 130, 131, 132, 138.
Schoharie Creek, 133, 144.
Schuyler, Philip, 42, 54, 74, 140.
——, William, 18, 44, 48, 70, 71, 80, 81, 98, 124.
Schremblings Kill, 127, 133.
Seeber, Jacob, 57, 79, 85, 97, 142.
——, William, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, 27, 29, 34, 38, 40, 42–46, 48, 56, 66, 70, 72, 79, 86, 89, 99, 117.
Seneca Indians, 87.
Sheffer, Philip, 76, 79.
Shoemaker, Anna Gertrude, 128
——, John Joseph, 54, 128, 139.
——, Michael Myers, 139.
——, Rudolph, 31, 128, 139.
Simmons, Sampson, 16, 18, 27, 35, 43, 48, 56, 66, 70, 71, 81, 89, 90, 98, 121.
Six Nations, 19, 33, 34, 87, 106.
Smith, John, 53, 138.
Staring, Jacob, 53, 97, 138.
Stevenson, Capt., 73, 74.
St. Johns, 92.
St. Johnsville, 112, 135.
St. Regis, 105.
Stone Arabia, 1, 59, 107–109, 111, 139.

TEN BROECKS, Samuel, 44, 45, 110, 134.
Thompson, John, 31, 101, 103, 128.
Ticonderoga, 54, 74, 75, 140, 141.
Tryon County, 1–3, 31, 54, 67, 99, 100, 105–108, 110, 113–124, 126, 129, 130, 132, 136, 138.
Tryon County Militia, 54, 11, 112, 118, 121, 124, 127, 129, 134, 135, 138, 139, 142, 143.
Tuscarora Indians, 32, 128.
Tygert, Peter S., 40, 42, 44, 131.
——, Werner, 15, 17, 44, 45, 46.

INDEX

Van Alstyne, Gose, 26, 28, 34, 37, 39, 48, 51, 62, 66, 71, 78, 89, 93, 94, 98, 127.
——, Marte J., 68.
Van Horn, Abraham, 18, 27, 44, 48, 70, 71, 80, 81, 89, 98, 124.
Van Rensselaer, Robert, 117.
Van Slyck, Harmanus, 6, 10, 13, 15, 18, 34, 38, 40, 43, 47, 48, 54, 66, 70, 71, 79, 86, 89, 98, 113.
Van Vechten, Anthony, 6, 13, 15, 18, 27, 48, 49, 54, 57, 70, 71, 78, 89, 113.
Vedder, Volkert, 16, 18, 27, 35, 43, 44, 48, 66, 70, 71, 79, 89, 98, 121.
——, John, 56, 142.
Visher, Visscher, Visgor. *See* Fisher.

Waggoner, Peter, 6, 10, 13, 15, 18, 24, 26, 35, 38, 40, 43, 44, 46, 48, 54, 66, 70, 71, 81, 89, 98, 112.
Wagner, Webster, 112.
Wall, Edward, 13, 14, 17, 24–26, 30, 119.
Wallace, William, 66, 142.
Warren, Sir Peter, 144.
Warrensborough, 78, 80, 144.
Washington, George, 123.
Weaver, Jacob, 13, 30, 67, 81, 89, 99, 119.
Weber, John Jacob, 70.
Wells, Robert, 54, 138.
Wents, George, 13, 18, 30, 67, 70, 71, 81, 89, 99, 119.
White, Alexander, 49, 50, 51, 55, 56, 58, 61, 62, 67, 72, 110, 136, 137.
Wormuth, Mathew, 128.

Yates, Abraham, 16, 27, 48, 49, 71, 81, 122.
——, Christopher P., 3, 6, 10, 13, 15, 17, 26, 27, 37, 40, 43, 44, 45, 55, 91, 108, 110, 130.
——, Robert, 54.

Zessinger, Anna Catherina, 60.
——, Nicholas, 59, 60.
Zimmerman, Henry, 64, 94.
——, Lawrence, 79, 89, 98.

V, W, Y, Z

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